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Local Government Service

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MAKERS OF ENGLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

III—SIR JAMES KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH

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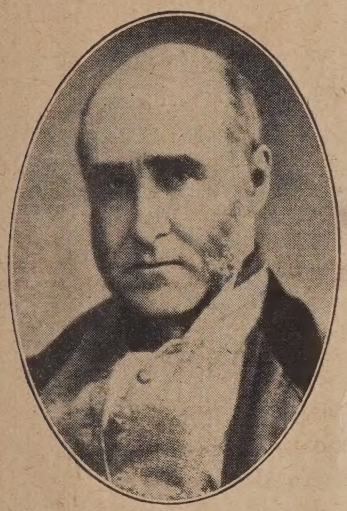


SIR JOHN SIMON, F.R.S.
(*from a portrait taken in* 1876)

IN the gallery of great English administrators, Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth has a conspicuous place. He was in the fullest sense of the word the maker of English state-provided education. His life is a link between the reformers of English local government of whom we have already spoken, and the Elementary Education Act of 1870.

Kay's Early Years

He was born on July 20, 1804, at Rochdale, of an old-established Lancashire nonconformist family, his father being a cotton manufacturer. James Kay (the Shuttleworth came when he married) showed from his earliest years his interest in education. At sixteen he became teacher and superintendent of the local Sunday school at a time when the Sunday schools were the only organisations giving a free or almost free elementary education to the poor. They were the forerunners of the wider provision of the latter half of the century. Kay was not satisfied with the career of banking to which the family destined him, and he went up to Edinburgh University as a medical student. Here he had a most brilliant career, not only in strictly medical studies, but also in the social and literary life of the Universities.

Immediately upon graduation he began his direct experience of public administration as assistant in the local dispensary and clerk of the fever hospital. This is his own account of the turning of his mind to social service: "Very early, therefore, I began to reflect on this complex problem. Were this degradation and this suffering inevitable? Could they only be mitigated? Were we always to be working with palliatives? Was there no remedy? Might not this calamity be traced to its sources and all the resources of a Christian nation devoted through whatever time was necessary to the moral and physical regeneration of this wretched population? Parallel, therefore, with my scientific reading I gradually began to make myself acquainted with the best works on political and social science. . . ."

After further years of study, he set up in private practice in Manchester, but his interest in social, rather than individual hygiene, caused him to take a very large share first in the local agitation in favour of the Reform Bill, and later in coping with the outbreak of cholera in 1832, which did so much to cause the rise of a public health system. His famous pamphlet, *The Moral and Physical Conditions of the Working Classes*, was the result of his experiences, and it is of tremendous importance that Kay realised that in addition to, and finally more important, perhaps, than all other administrative measures for improving the environment of education, was *education*—education in general, and in natural science, in political science, and through libraries as well as schools.

Beginnings of Reform

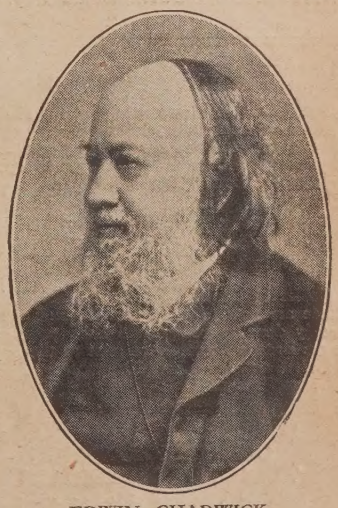
There were certain direct results of this pamphlet. One was the foundation of the Manchester Statistical Society, a pioneer of research and reform, which was a model for other such bodies throughout the country. The second was his formation of contacts with the London group of economists and administrators, Senior, James Mill, John Stuart Mill, Southwood Smith, and Chadwick. He says of this time that "there was an obvious need of a municipal organisation possessed of considerable powers of control and of local taxation for the public benefit, to correct the consequences of half a century of neglect." This was two years before the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act.

The Poor Law Commission offered him the post of assistant poor law commissioner. This situation was really the equivalent of poor law inspector of East Anglia, these assistant commissionerships being the first examples of inspection of the local authorities by the central government in the history of British public administration. In this position Kay contributed some most remarkable reports on the working of the new poor law system and played a great part in helping to set the new system to work, by advice on the composition of the Boards of Guardians, the appointment of officers and the co-operation of the central commissioners and the local authorities. More and more his attention became focused on the problem of educating the children who were in the workhouses. It was here that the idea was discovered of training youngsters as pupil teachers, and of establishing district schools, so that destitute children should be educated in an environment removed from the stigma of pauperism.

In 1839, a decisive change took place in Kay's activities. He was made secretary of the committee of the Privy Council on Education. What exactly did this mean? It was the very meagre result of the many noble but abortive attempts made for three decades to secure a state system of education. In 1833 an annual grant of £20,000 was commenced in aid of private subscription for the erection of schools and the education of the children of the poorer classes. In 1839 the grant was increased to £30,000. It was to be distributed through the great ecclesiastical school organisations as before, but the committee was "to determine in what manner the grants should be distributed."

Educational Organisation

If this was a pitifully small result of herculean efforts, it was at the same time the opportunity of Kay to establish and elaborate an organisation and principles of the greatest values to his time and succeeding generations. In the first place, he insisted on the definite subordination of the inspectors (the approval of whose appointment had to be given by the ecclesiastical bodies) to the State through his office, regarding his office as the guarantor of the efficiency of education and the civil rights of minorities. Secondly, he established the right of inspection, as a consequence of the grant to secure conformity to the regulations



EDWIN CHADWICK

and discipline and the improvements from time to time suggested. Thirdly, he required the right to audit building accounts and the furnishing of reports. Fourthly, inspection was

(*Continued on next page*)

MAKERS OF ENGLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(*Continued from preceding page*)

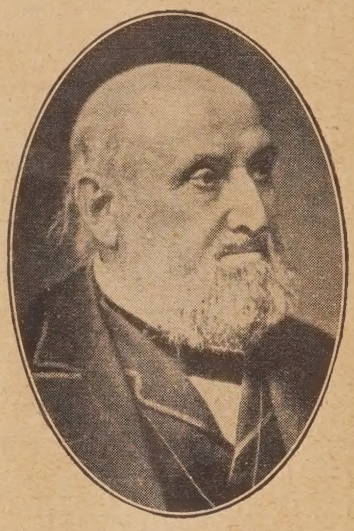
used to improve the nature and methods of education as well as to ensure narrow legalistic control. Applicants for grants had to give answers to seventy-five questions, and the inspectors themselves were instructed to ask nearly 180 questions regarding the efficiency of the schools.

Kay did not take his duties formally, but watched over their work with intense anxiety, answered their inquiries with the greatest solicitude, and encouraged and informed them with remarkable fertility. He examined and commented upon the reports from every school. He threw himself with great energy, and the risk of his own money, into establishing a school for teachers, as a model of what could be done, at Battersea. He saw that no great achievement would ever come in education until the parishes and towns received the power to raise an education-rate and until the influence of the various religious societies was reduced to the minimum inside the schools. He travelled abroad and sent others abroad to bring back the latest news regarding the principles and practice of education.

He had a " Manual of Teaching " published. He attempted, in 1842, when the Factory Act was being passed, to include provision for full State education. Gradually, the grants were designed to encourage the fostering of pupil teachers (for it must be remembered that there did not yet exist, as there exists now, a great teaching profession—all this had to be built from the very beginning); then, again, this was done by the provision of stipends to young persons to be trained in schools which received a favourable report from the Inspector, by special exhibitions to the best of these at training colleges, and higher pay for the teachers thus trained.

The vote of money by Parliament had risen by 1846 to £100,000. Nor was this all. Kay managed to impose the establishment of management committees for each school, each to be representative of the subscribers, the religious or secular educational society receiving the grant, and the Privy Council Committee which gave them. In this body was vested every aspect of the administration of the school, its funds and its teachers, except religion, which was left to the religious member.

In 1848, Kay was obliged to resign. Thirteen years' work in the public service, of which eight were in education, had worn him out. One index of the progress made was the increase in the inspectorate from 2 to 19. He was rewarded with a baronetcy. He did not cease to participate in the educational movement, and in 1870 he had the satisfaction of witnessing the passage



WILLIAM FARR

of the Elementary Education Act, for which all his life had been a preparation, and his private efforts between 1848-1870 a crusade. He fought Robert Lowe's Revised Code of Payment by Results, with the arguments which caused the abandonment of that system in 1890. On his death in May, 1877, Matthew Arnold said of him, " The faith in popular education which animated him was no intriguer's passion. It was heroic; it was a gift planted by Nature, and truly and honestly followed, cultivated, and obeyed. And he, who had this clear vision of the road to be pursued, had a clear vision of the means toward the end. By no other means than those adopted by him could a system of public education have been introduced in the country."

HOLIDAY CENTRE

Will members please note that the Holiday Centres are both fully booked for August, but there is accommodation available from Easter to July 20 and from August 31 to end of September. Book NOW for Easter.

HOLIDAY GUIDE

Copies of the N.A.L.G.O. Official Holiday Guide are now available and if you have not already done so you should hand your order to the Branch Secretary at once as the supply is limited and the demand is great.

COMMEMORATING TELFORD'S RESIDENCE

In connection with its work of indicating, by means of memorial tablets, houses in London which have formed the residence of celebrated persons, the London County Council has affixed to No. 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, the headquarters of the N.A.L.G.O., a tablet of glazed ware commemorative of the residence of Thomas Telford, engineer.

ATTEMPT AT BRIBERY

Town Councillor Sentenced

Recently a post under a northern local authority was advertised and the three candidates on the short list were summoned to attend before the appropriate committee for interview. A few days prior to this interview, each of the three candidates received a letter from a councillor, and in each case hints were given concerning certain members of the council, whom the applicant would find it useful to impress, and an offer was also made to canvass members of the committee for a slight monetary consideration. The applicants reported the receipt of this letter to the town clerk and, as a result, the councillor was charged under the Public Bodies' Corrupt Practices Act, 1889, with attempting to obtain bribes when a member of the council. He was sentenced to four months' imprisonment in the second division and was disqualified from holding public office for seven years. The judge, in passing sentence, said: " You have pleaded guilty to three charges of attempting to obtain corrupt rewards for using your influence to procure the election of people to municipal office—surely as discreditable an offence as can well be imagined."

WHAT ARE QUALIFICATIONS WORTH?

Qualifications are worth nothing. Let us see if this is not so.

Suppose a man obtains a qualification and then allows himself to forget all about the subjects learned. To that extent his mind is a vacuum. Yet he still holds the qualification.

Why should a man be credited with what he does not possess? Would a bank do this? Yet, that is precisely what the majority of councils do. They specify in their advertisements of vacancies that applicants must possess certain qualifications, under the impression that qualifications necessarily mean knowledge.

When an applicant for a post states that he has passed certain examinations, he expects it to be taken for granted that he still possesses the same knowledge of the subjects as when he sat for the examination—and local authorities deceive themselves into doing so.

Thousands regard examinations merely as obstacles to advancement to be negotiated and then forgotten; yet they are credited throughout life with the knowledge they had when they passed.

Do not our public bodies realise what a wonderful cloak for incompetency qualifications can be? Let us take the case of the average young man who passes an examination in five subjects—A, B, C, D, and E. On the strength of the qualification thus obtained he succeeds in getting an appointment, the duties of which involve only subjects A, B, and C. He remains, in the job for a number of years; then, again, by virtue of his holding the qualification he obtains another appointment which involves subjects D and E only. Can it be wondered at if he turns out to be in the same position as a person who had only heard of subjects D and E? He has to refer to books; an unqualified man can do that!

His knowledge has become " rusty." It is a well-known fact that the brain " rusts " quickly; yet responsible public posts are entrusted to " rusty " brains. Would any reasonable individual hang a heavy door on rusty hinges? Would we entrust an operation on anyone dear to us to a doctor who had practised medicine only for years, merely because he had also qualified as a surgeon?

A man has only to obtain the magic letters " A.M.Inst.A.B.C." or " F.X.Y.Z.I."; then he can use them as a pillow for his weary head for the rest of his life confident that we shall always unconsciously regard him as retaining the ability necessary for the attainment of such distinctions.

What, then, is an alternative method for making appointments? The ignoring of qualifications, thus allowing applications by unqualified but practical men who have always to keep up to scratch because they have no " pillows " to rest on; and the submission of selected candidates to a test to ascertain their present capabilities.

An applicant for a post should be appointed for what he can do now, not for what he did years ago. A man is proficient by practising, not by forgetting.

" By their works (recent, not remote) shall ye know them."

M. JOHN.

Orpington, Kent.

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

A paper on " Public Administration—The Place of the Junior " will be given by Mr. A. J. T. Day, the Secretary of the Society of Civil Servants, at Montagu House (the Ministry of Labour), on Thursday April 11, at 6 p.m. Sir Horace Wilson has consented to take the chair, and it is expected that there will be a large attendance. The aims and objects of the I.P.A., and the possibilities of ultimate benefit to the Junior in both the Civil and Local Government Services are still imperfectly understood, and no one is more competent than Mr. Day to deal with this important subject.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS AT THE QUARTERLY MEETING

A LARGE variety of business was transacted at the quarterly meeting of the National Executive Council which was held at the Association's headquarters, 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, on March 16, under the chairmanship of Mr. F. J. Willett, Chairman of the Council. Those present were :—

Dr. A Wotherspoon (President), Mrs. G. Franks, Mr. G. W. Coster, M.B.E. (Vice-President), Mr. W. E. Lloyd (Hon. Treasurer and Vice-President), Mr. P. H. Harrold (Hon. Solicitor for England), Messrs. J. W. Wilkinson, H. Allen, W. H. Whinnerah, A. G. M. Archibald, W. W. Armitage, D. L. Griffiths, A. A. Garrard, C. A. W. Roberts, M.B.E., J. T. Baker, J. Chaston, A. G. Bolton, A. Webb, J. W. Vince, E. J. Stead, J. W. Singleton, A. Pinches, J. Moss, F. W. Greenhalgh, M.B.E., F. V. Merriman, G. Llewellyn, V. Grainger, J. E. Gee, T. Freeman, F. R. Finch, A. B. Day, G. A. Stone, H. Morris, C. C. Sweet, A. Denton Ogden, W. Wilson, together with Messrs. L. Hill (General Secretary), John Simonds (Legal Secretary), H. G. Baker (Accountant), H. Slater (Education Secretary) and H. Wright (Secretary, Special Activities Department). Expressions of regret at inability to attend were received from Messsrs. H. S. Newton, H. Begg, C. G. Brown (Past President), G. S. Fraser, D. J. Parry, and E. H. Scarlett.

It was reported that as the result of a casual vacancy in the Council caused by the resignation of Mr. G. Lawson on his appointment to a post under the Unemployment Assistance Board, Mr. W. Wilson, Chief Public Assistance Officer, Fifeshire County Council, had been elected.

Association's Rules

It was decided to give notice of motion to the annual conference at Cheltenham as follows : —" That rule 2 of the Rules and Constitution of the Association be amended by the insertion of the following new object after object (n) : To do all such things as may from time to time be considered advisable to foster, safeguard, maintain or improve the status or influence of the Association or to promote the advancement of the Association or its District Committees or its Branches or any of them by contributions to public charities, voluntary organisations, or other similar bodies."

Reports of a large number of cases of legal assistance to members were submitted by the Law and Parliamentary Committee. Among them was the case of a member who was transferred under the Local Government Act, 1929, from a Board of Guardians to a Corporation. As an officer of the Board of Guardians he was in receipt, at the date of transfer, of a salary of £600 per annum. In December, 1934, a Sub-Committee of the Corporation recommended that he be appointed to a fresh post under the Council, at a commencing salary of £455, rising to £485 per annum. On the Council's attention being drawn to the member's rights as a transferred officer, a question arose as to whether an increase of £100 in his salary granted by the Board of Guardians prior to transfer was to be regarded as a permanent increase or merely as temporary. The matter was referred by the Corporation to the Town Clerk to negotiate terms of settlement with the member. With the consent of the Chairman of the Law and Parliamentary Committee, the member was represented in the negotiations by a local Solicitor. As a result of the negotiations the Council agreed to pay the member a salary of £550 per annum as from the date of his appointment to his new post, on the member forgoing all claim to compensation under the Local Government Act, 1929. The member agreed to this settlement.

A report was submitted in connection with the Compulsory Superannuation Bill. Negotiations had taken place with representatives of the Association, the London County Association, the London County Council and certain other bodies, as a result of which considerable progress had been made towards securing complete agreement on the provisions of the draft Bill. The Association of Municipal Corporations, the County Councils Association, the Urban District Councils Association, the Rural District Councils Association, the London County Council and the Trades Union Congress had all been asked if they would join with the Association in making a request to the Prime Minister that he should receive a joint deputation from all these bodies with the object of trying to induce the Government to give the necessary facilities for the Bill.

Since the December meeting of the Committee, decisions had been given on compensation appeals under county review orders which had resulted in the following increases of annual compensation being secured (total compensation award given in parenthesis) :—£20 10s. (£83), £8 9s. 1d. (£17 10s.), £4 7s. 6d. (£23 15s.). Under a local Act the following annual increases had been obtained on appeal :— £33 3s. 4d. (£66 10s.), £39 10s. (£64 10s.), £40 (£80).

Since the last meeting of the Committee the following cases had been dealt with at Headquarters :—Compensation for loss of office or emoluments, 11; conditions of service of transferred officers, 12; superannuation, 61; general legal questions (other than the particular cases referred to in the Committee's report), 39.

A hearty vote of thanks had been accorded to Messrs. P. H. Harrold and D. Llewellyn Griffiths, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, for their services during the past year.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee recommended that a grant of 15s. per day for a period not exceeding four days, be made to those branches which have made application for such assistance, towards the subsistence allowance of one delegate from each of such branches to the Annual Conference, 1935.

Sustentation Fund

Various proposals were made affecting the rules governing the Sustentation Fund, these being brought up-to-date. In order to be eligible for benefit, an applicant must have been a member of the Association for a minimum period of two years prior to the date of the termination of his appointment and must not be in arrears with his subscriptions.

Benefit is to be allowed according to the circumstances of each case and at the discretion of the National Executive Council; in no case shall the weekly grant exceed £3; any such allowance shall be in proportion to the length of continuous membership of the Association; for each year of continuous membership, one month's benefit to be allowed; and in no case shall a grant be made for a period longer than six calendar months.

Amendments of Rules with reference to the election of honorary officers by the branches were proposed. It was proposed that the rule with reference to the venue of annual Conference be amended to include provisions similar to those applicable to the voting papers for the election of Honorary Officers.

A meeting of the Permanent Bureau of the International Union of Local Authorities will commence at The Hague, on May 27, 1935, to discuss arrangements for the Berlin Congress, 1936, and the General Secretary, who is a member of the Permanent Bureau, has received an invitation to attend this meeting. The General Secretary was authorised to attend.

A letter was received from the honorary secretary of the British Hospitals Association, to the effect that a draft of the revised Constitution of the International Hospitals Association has been submitted. The Council of the B.H.A. are of opinion that advantage should be taken of this opportunity by all those organisations entitled to membership of the International Hospitals Association to review the situation in its constitutional and financial aspects. They asked if N.A.L.G.O. would be willing to appoint representatives to meet representatives of their body for the purpose of discussing and possibly arriving at arrangements which will place matters upon rather a more definite foundation than at present. There is a suggestion that an International Hospital Congress should be held in England in the year 1937.

Messrs. C. A. W. Roberts and W. H. Whinnerah and the General Secretary were appointed to attend the meeting with representatives of the British Hospitals Association.

The Committee recorded a hearty vote of thanks to Messrs. A. Pinches and A. G. M. Archibald, Chairman and Vice-Chairman, for their services during the year 1934-35.

The January Examinations

The Education Committee reported that the Association's examinations were held on January 17, 18 and 19, 1935. The following statistics show the number of candidates examined on this occasion compared with those at the examinations in 1934 :—

Grade	*January* 1935	*January* 1934	*May* 1934
Preliminary	82	67	88
Intermediate ..	31	45	62
Final	10	11	14
Total ..	123	123	164

The ages of the candidates in the Preliminary grade ranged from 14 to 27 years, and the average was 20 years. The ages of the candidates in the Intermediate grade ranged from 18 to 31 years, and the average was 24 years. The ages of the candidates in the Final grade ranged from 19 to 27 years and the average was 21 years.

Notice has been given that the Association's Preliminary Examination will be discontinued after May, 1935. At present candidates desirous of presenting themselves at the Intermediate Examination must either have passed the Preliminary Examination or obtained exemption therefrom. A registration fee of 5s. has been charged to candidates to whom exemption from the Preliminary Examination has been granted. After the discontinuance of the Preliminary Examination it will be necessary for candidates to apply for recognition as eligible for entry to the Intermediate Examination, in respect of which a registration fee of 5s. will be charged.

Consequent upon the discontinuance of the Preliminary Examination the regulations relating to entry to the Intermediate Examination will require some modification, and it was proposed that the regulations should now read as follows :—

" A candidate for the Intermediate Examination must :—

(*a*) hold an appointment under a local authority on the closing date for the receipt of applications for entry to the examination, and

(*b*) have passed or been exempted from the Preliminary Examination formerly conducted by the Association; or

(*c*) have produced a certificate of having passed one of the examinations specified hereunder in paragraph *; or
in the case of a candidate over the age of 21 who has not passed one of the examinations specified in paragraph *,

(*d*) have produced evidence of having obtained a satisfactory educational standard.

* Examinations referred to above :—

(*Continued on next page*)

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (*continued*)

(*a*) The Matriculation Examination of any University in the United Kingdom.
(*b*) Any examination for the time being in the list approved by the Board of Education as First and Second Examinations.
(*c*) The Examination of the Senior Certificate of the College of Preceptors.
(*d*) The Examination for the Intermediate Certificate of the Scottish Education Department.
(*e*) The School Commercial Certificate of the Royal Society of Arts.
(*f*) The School Certificate of Commercial Education of the London Chamber of Commerce.
(*g*) The Preliminary Examination of any recognised Examination Board.

The revised regulations were adopted.

At the request of the Monmouthshire County Council the Association has arranged for the preparation of examination papers in English, Arithmetic and General Knowledge in connection with an examination for junior entrants to the Service.

Grants to Universities

It was reported that in accordance with the decision of the National Executive Council cheques for the following amounts had been forwarded, through the local Branches to the following Universities: Liverpool University, £50; Sheffield University, £50; Manchester University, £50; London University, £25.

Letters of appreciation have been received from the local branches and from the Universities, from which it is clear that the co-operation of the Association in furthering the study of Public Administration is greatly appreciated by the University Authorities.

The increasing success of N.C.I. students is demonstrated by the following figures: 295 students were successful in 1932; 311 in 1933; and 399 in 1934.

It was resolved that the examinations of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants and the Incorporated Secretaries Association be included in the Scholarships Scheme, and that Exhibitions, Scholarships and Prizes be awarded on the results of these examinations.

It was further resolved that the question of including the examinations of the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Institute of Transport, and the Scottish Law Agents be deferred.

The President of the Association, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the National Executive Council, and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee were appointed to represent the Association at both the English and Scottish 1935 Summer Schools.

In view of the fact that the Institute of Housing Administration has decided to establish a Certificate in Housing Administration, no further action was taken in connection with the establishment of examinations by the Association for such a Certificate.

The Committee recorded a hearty vote of thanks to Messrs. J. Chaston and C. A. W. Roberts, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, for their services during the past year.

Action Against Institution Master

The Poor-Law Transferred Officers' Committee reported on a case where a woman alleged to be of unsound mind was admitted to a Public Assistance institution on a three-day order. The order expired at 9 p.m. at night, but the patient was not released until 11 a.m. the next morning, when a Relieving Officer brought a Magistrate to the institution and the patient was discharged. The woman brought an action against the Master of the Institution asking for damages for false imprisonment. The Master, besides being a member of N.A.L.G.O., was also a member of the National Association of Administrators of Local Government Establishments, and the two Associations co-operated. The Legal Secretary expressed the view that it was the duty of the County Council to defend their officer, and subsequently the County Council instructed their Solicitor to undertake the Master's defence. In view, however, of the importance of the position, a local solicitor was instructed to watch the case. Before the case was called it was announced that a settlement had been reached, the plaintiff having agreed to accept the sum of £11 paid into Court by the County Council, together with the amount of her costs to be taxed up to the date of such payment into Court. The Master had not, therefore, been put to any expense in defending the action. The following was an extract from a letter from the local solicitor who watched the case:—"As a point of interest to members of your Association I would like to mention to you that counsel attached great importance to the words, 'but no person shall be detained more than three days,' contained in section 20 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, and strongly advised a settlement. In view of counsel's opinion and also of the general uncertainty as to the interpretation of the Act, it would seem highly desirable for your members to be advised that in all cases of detention orders under section 20 a Justice shall be called in within the three days' period."

L.C.C. Superannuation Scheme

The Poor Law Transferred Officers' Committee reported that under the London County Council Superannuation Scheme contributors who were in the service of the Council on July 28, 1925, were entitled on retirement to have the lump sum then payable increased by one half of one per cent. for each year of contribution completed at that date. Certain Poor-Law officers who were in the service of a Poor Law Authority on July 28, 1925, and who were transferred to the London County Council under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1929, on April 1, 1930, claimed that they were entitled to the benefit of this provision on becoming subject to the London County Council superannuation scheme. They based their contention on the provisions of section 2 (1) of the scheme constituted by an order issued by the Minister of Health under section 124 (2) (b) of the Local Government Act, 1929, which applied the London County Council scheme to transferred Poor-Law officers. That sub-section provided that any service by a transferred Poor-Law officer before April 1, 1930, which would have been treated as service for the purpose of the Poor-Law officers Superannuation Act, 1896, should be treated as service in respect of which he had contributed to the fund. A case was being submitted to Counsel for his opinion.

In view of the Government's decision to postpone the taking over by the Unemployment Assistance Board of the administration of relief of the able-bodied unemployed which would have been transferred to that Board on March 1, it was possible that many questions would arise regarding the service conditions of members of the Association who would be affected by the decision. The position was being closely watched in order to protect their interests until their transfer to the staff of the Board.

Mr. Oliver Stanley, Minister of Labour, speaking in the House of Commons on January 29, regarding the difficulties which arose over the Unemployment Assistance Board's Regulations, attributed responsibility for some of the difficulties to the inexperience of officers of the Board. A request had been received from a member who was an "appointed" officer of the Board for the purpose of giving decisions and determinations in cases arising within county areas, that the Association should lodge a protest. The Minister of Labour had subsequently modified and partially withdrawn the statement previously made by him, and it was accordingly resolved that no action be taken.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs. F. W. Greenhalgh and C. A. W. Roberts, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, for their services during the past year.

Cost-of-Living Index

The Service Conditions and Organisation Committee submitted a report of the deputation which attended at the Ministry of Labour, on December 13, 1934, on the reference from the annual Conference relating to the Cost-of-Living Index. The deputation was received by Mr. Leggett and the Director of Statistics, Mr. E. C. Ramsbottom. It was pointed out by the deputation that a considerable number of the Association's members still had their remuneration related to movements in the official cost-of-living index figures, and that those figures were to-day in many respects unrelated to the mode of living, particularly of the middle and professional classes, which form the bulk of the Association's membership. The officials of the Ministry contended that the scope and intention of the cost-of-living index numbers was explained in detail by the official publication of the Ministry issued through H.M. Stationery Office in 1931, price 3d. net. and that the figures did form a useful and valuable basis for measuring changes in prices of commodities included within the limited scope of the index. The Ministry had on more than one occasion been in communication with the National Confederation of Employers' Organisations and the Trade Union Congress to ascertain their respective views in regard to a revision of the basis of the index number, but as yet agreement on the subject had not been reached, this no doubt being due to a realisation that a new basis would be likely to disturb existing agreements and create difficulties connected with the terms which should operate in the event of a new index being substituted.

Officers' Expenditure

The officials of the Ministry stated that a considerable amount of work had been done by the Ministry in testing statistical matter bearing on the changes introduced into the habits and customs of working-class families since pre-war days. One factor operating at the present time against the introduction of a new calculation was the abnormal position created by short time working and reduced pay in many industries, through which conditions had become abnormal and therefore unsatisfactory as a basis for the collection of new budgets and the preparation of a new index. The circumstances which entered into the expenditure of working-class families, however, did not govern the expenditure of a large proportion of local government officers. It would therefore be a matter for the Association to consider whether it would collect information to show alterations in the expenditure of officers on different ranges of salary comprised in the membership and for the purposes of adjustment of remuneration the directions in which past systems of adjustment had been at fault, and new ones required to be framed and negotiated.

The Committee had considered in detail the memorandum, prepared as the result of a questionnaire issued to the Divisional Secretaries, together with all other relevant details bearing on the history and present position of the question of the organisation of County staffs, including statistics obtained from county branches as to the assistance which they had rendered to the transferred staffs and the steps which had been taken to organise them. It was manifest that there were many difficulties to be overcome, and those difficulties were stated.

A proposed scheme, submitted by the Divisional Secretaries, for county branch and general district organisation, had been considered. Certain amendments had been made in the schemes as submitted, and it was recommended that the scheme, as amended, be forwarded immediately to the county branches for their observations; and that the scheme be adopted, subject to consideration of any such observations, as an alternative to the model scheme adopted by the Annual Conference 1934, and only where the model scheme is not operable.

At a recent meeting of the North Eastern District, a report was presented which indicated

that 28 branches were in favour of the setting up of a Provincial Whitley Council for this area, five branches had taken no action, and one branch was against the proposal. This means that of the total membership of 4,271 (as at December 31, 1933) more than 4,000 members definitely supported the principle and only 24 members opposed it. This decision has been communicated to the Secretary of the Standing Conference of Joint Councils, and consideration is now being given to the question of what steps shall be taken to initiate a Conference for the purpose of setting up a Provincial Whitley Council for the area.

Subscriptions

Mrs. A. A. Woodman, of East Ham, the Association's London representative of the London and National Society for Women's Service, has stated that it is customary for the other affiliated societies to pay an annual affiliation fee of one or two guineas, according to the size of the society, and she has suggested that it might be advisable for the Association to pay such fee as may be determined, in order to place the Association in exactly the same position as the other affiliated societies and associations. It was agreed to pay an annual fee of one guinea.

It was reported that the number of subscribing branches for 1934 was 553, as compared with 537 for the previous year. The subscribing membership was 78,665, as compared with 73,188 for 1933, an increase of 5,477, and on January 31, 1935, the membership reached 79,798, as compared with 74,619 in the preceding year.

The Committee placed on record its appreciation of the services rendered by Messrs. J. W. Wilkinson and W. W. Armitage as Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the year 1934-1935.

B. and O. Fund

The B. and O. Fund Management Committee announced that the Honorary Treasurer had reported that the Nalgo Building Society Committee of Management had decided to reduce the amount of interest on mortgages by ½ per cent.; that the other activities of the Association had been recommended to do this and requested that this Committee would favourably consider agreeing to the suggestion. It was resolved that the rate of interest on all outstanding mortgages granted by this Fund be reduced by ½ per cent. as from January 1, 1935.

It was reported that Miss H. Newman had relinquished her position as chief clerk of the Fund and that Miss W. V. Murrell has been appointed to the vacancy. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Newman for the services which she has rendered to the Fund and for the interest which she has always displayed in her work.

The Committee seconded a hearty vote of thanks to Messrs. H. S. Newton and M. O. McAuliffe, Chairman and Vice-Chairman, for their services during the year 1934-5.

It was decided on the recommendation of a Special Sub-Committee, to give notice of motion to the Annual Conference, 1935, to amend Rule 3 as follows :—Delete the whole rule and substitute the following therefor : " The objects of the Fund shall be to afford, when necessary, assistance to the following classes of persons : (1) Members; (2) *bona fide* dependants of members; (3) *bona fide* dependants of deceased members; (4) members of the Association; (5) *bona fide* dependants of members of the Association; (6) *bona fide* dependants of deceased members of the Association; and (7) past members of the Fund or the Association who have left the Local Government Service on account of ill-health or similar circumstances and who are not eligible for membership or retired membership of the Association, but who at the date of leaving the Local Government Service were members of the Association, and *bona fide* dependants of such past members. Such assistance shall be given by granting : (a) Relief in cases of distress, illness, accident or sudden emergency; (b) temporary loans; (c) allowances or annuities; (d) permits for admission to sanatoria, convalescent homes or other institutions; (e) facilities for consulting specialists at reduced rates. Provided that in those cases coming within classes (4) to (7) inclusive above no assistance shall be rendered until the recommendations in connection with such cases have been approved by the Management Committee and the Council."

Since the December meeting of the Committee, 96 life membership fees had been received, making the total number of life memberships since inception of the Fund 6,967.

The Hon. Treasurer reported that the Nalgo Building Society Committee of Management had decided to reduce the amount of interest on mortgages by ½ per cent.; that the other activities of the Association had been recommended to do this, and requested that the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Management Committee would favourably consider agreeing to the suggestion. It was resolved that the rate of interest on all outstanding mortgages granted by this Fund be reduced by ½ per cent. as from January 1, 1935.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs. H. S. Newton and M. O. McAuliffe, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, for their services during the year.

The Public Relations Committee reported on the arrangements for the celebration of the municipal centenary.

The Provident Society

The Nalgo Provident Society Committee of Management submitted a statement of the accounts for year ended December 31, 1934, and the balance sheet as at that date. The Hon. Treasurer had agreed to the allocation of 8½d. in the shilling to members "Rest" accounts for the year 1934. The available surplus in the Common Sick Fund at the end of last year was £20,350 and the amount required to meet the distribution was £19,232. As regards loans on mortgage it was decided that the rate of interest be reduced from 5 per cent. to 4½ per cent. as from January 1, 1935. The following table shows the progress made from January 1, 1935, to February 16, 1935, as compared with the corresponding period for the year 1934 :—

	Sickness Section.		Death Benefit Section.	
	1934.	1935.	1934.	1935
Total at Jan. 1	12,921	14,107	784	850
Enrolments	223	242	13	16
	13,144	14,349	797	866
Resignations	32	30	—	1
	13,112	14,319	797	865

The Society has organised membership competitions for the past five years, and the new enrolments obtained are as follows :—1930, enrolments 1,861 (including Life Assurance Section); 1931, 1,402; 1932, 1,312; 1933, 2,307; 1934, 1,641. The question of authorising another competition for the year 1935 has been deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

The report of the Special Sub-Committee which dealt with the Hospital and Nursing Home Scheme and the Benefit Scheme to encourage continuous membership in N.A.L.G.O. was approved. The schemes will be submitted to the annual conference and the annual general meeting of the Society.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs. W. H. Whinnerah, J. T. Baker, and W. E. Lloyd, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Hon. Treasurer respectively, for their services during the past year.

Building Society Mortgage Interest

A Sub-Committee of the Nalgo Building Society stated that they believed that the Society's scope for obtaining mortgage business would be increased if fixed mortgages not exceeding two-thirds of the value of a property were granted at 4¾ per cent., and had decided to recommend that these facilities be offered forthwith. The Committee approved this, subject to all fixed mortgages being reviewed annually.

The Sub-Committee, after giving very careful consideration to the financial position of the Society and receiving a full explanation from the Hon. Treasurer, decided to recommend the Committee of Management to reduce the rates of interest on all mortgages by 10s. per cent. commencing from January 1, 1935, and this was approved.

The Management Committee decided that the annual general meeting be recommended to make the necessary amendments to the rules in order to discontinue the issue of share certificates.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee and to the members of the Sub-Committee for their services during the past year.

The Board of Management of the National and Local Government Officers' Mutual Insurance Association (Logomia) presented their report, which showed the Association's continued progress. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. S. Lord, Chairman of the Board of Management, and Mr. G. W. Coster, M.B.E., Vice-Chairman.

The following nominations were received from the District Committee for the hon. officers for 1935-36 :—President, Mr. G. W. Coster; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. W. E. Lloyd, W. W. Armitage, F. R. Finch, D. L. Griffiths and J. L. Holland; Trustees, Messrs. H. Begg, S. Lord and W. H. Whinnerah; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. E. Lloyd; Hon. Solicitor (England), Mr. P. H. Harrold; Hon. Solicitor (Wales), Mr. D. J. Parry; Hon. Solicitor (Scotland), Mr. G. S. Fraser.

GRAMOPHONE NOTES

THE KING'S MESSAGE

The record of the voice of His Majesty the King, speaking to the people of his Empire at the end of the third Christmas Day broadcast, preserves every inflection of voice and captures the very spirit of the King's thoughts when he spoke as the father of a united but world-wide family. It is issued by " His Master's Voice " this month, and all profits from its sale will be devoted to the Industrial Welfare Society, a charity nominated by His Majesty (H.M.V. RCS2717).

The Concerto in B flat major by Mozart is a welcome addition to Schnabel's records, as hitherto his recording of Concertos has been confined to Beethoven. Elisabeth Schumann imprints her charming personality as well as her beautiful voice in the record of Schubert's " Ave Maria " and Bach's " Bist du bei mir " (H.M.V. DB2291). Mark Hambourg has just celebrated his twenty-fifth anniversary of recording for " His Master's Voice." This month, with his daughter, Michal, he has recorded his own two-piano arrangement of the famous Bach Chorale " Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring " (H.M.V. B8276).

Other issues this month come from Marek Weber and his orchestra, who play a potpourri of all the best tunes in " Pagliacci " (H.M.V. C2714); a selection from " The Arcadians " from the Coldstream Guards Band (H.M.V. C2715); Massed Bands playing " Stars and Stripes " and " Blue Devils " Marches (H.M.V. B8236). Old songs we all know played by the London Palladium Orchestra (H.M.V. C2720); a medley of new tunes played in syncopated time (H.M.V. B8265); a Medley of Jerome Kern's Melodies arranged by Henry Hall (H.M.V. C2719) and another potpourri of famous old-fashioned melodies (H.M.V. B8272).

PORTS OF CALL ON THE CENTENARY CRUISE

RIGA—CAPITAL OF LATVIA

RIGA, spreading inland from the River Daugava, which is also its harbour, is another of the old Hanseatic towns whose roots are steeped deep in the soil of history, and here, as in every old city, the ancient and the modern mingle in pleasant confusion and friendship. With a population of 400,000 people, which is steadily increasing,

A panorama of Riga

Riga is typical of the architecture and plan of the many ports dotted around the historic Baltic Sea.

It is of great interest to English visitors because it is representative of all shades of Latvian life and customs; the internal affairs of that small war-born republic which is only a name, and less than that, to many English people; although the knowledgeable will tell us Latvia is one of the many danger spots in the present constitution of Europe.

Many Conquests

But war and conquest, siege and devastation are no new things to the city, as it is, and always has been, an important key and gateway to a vast hinterland of Poland and Central Europe which lies beyond. In 1522, Riga fell under the influence of the Reformation, and with it came troublous times, and in 1582, when the city fell under Polish domination, the counter-Reformation, although it failed, brought more bloodshed and hardship. In 1621, Gustavus Adolphus, the famous warrior King of Sweden, swept down on the town with his "noble army" and laid it under the domination of the three golden crowns, where it remained for nearly a century.

In 1710 the town again changed nationality, this time the victors being the Russians under the warlike Peter the First. Thereafter began a period of peaceful development, broken only by the burning of its suburbs in 1812 during the struggle against Napoleon. England also took a hand in harrying the inhabitants in 1854, when a fleet blockaded the port during the Crimean War. Apart from these mere incidents, however, the town marched forward for 200 years until by the end of the nineteenth century it was a prosperous harbour, with the second largest trade in Russia, and many industries.

This prosperity was interrupted by the most devastating war in history. The taking of Riga by the German army in September, 1917, put an end to Russian rule, and during the disturbances of the Baltic States towards the end of the war the port suffered considerably. The Republic of Latvia was proclaimed in November, 1918. When at last the city emerged from the general maelstrom of Central Europe, the population had been reduced by half. It had lost its hinterland and had been stripped of its industry. Now Riga as the capital of the Republic has rebuilt her industrial, economic and cultural life, gathered together the threads of the artistic, literary and scientific activities of Latvia, and can truly be said to be one of the most beautiful towns in Eastern Europe.

The Constitution

The constitution of the whole republic is democratic, with universal suffrage and proportional representation. The Parliament buildings are situated in Riga itself, and the administrative body (Saeima) consists of a chamber of 100 members. Municipally, the city itself is governed on much the same style as local government in England. There is a Mayor and Council, who have wide administrative powers in the town. The Town Hall, with the municipal library on the top floor, is a building of unique and distinctive character which dates back to the fourteenth century (it was rebuilt in 1750-1765). The Library itself is a wide and comprehensive institution, containing over 100,000 volumes, many valuable manuscripts, and a collection of autographs which include such world-famed names as Wagner, Luther, Herder, and others.

Directly opposite the Town Hall is one of the oldest and the most curious buildings in the city—the House of the Black Heads, part of which is of the thirteenth century. It gains its remarkable name from the Society of Black Heads, a league of bachelor merchants which flourished in the Hansa days for the protection of the town. Their coat of arms bore the head of St. Mauritius (the Moor). English people can claim some slight relationship with this building, as the Island of Mauritius, one of our colonies, was also named after the Moorish Saint.

The municipal archives of Riga are gathered in the Cathedral of Saint Mary (the Dom Church) whose square tower forms one of the principal landmarks of the town, and here the history and government of the town can be seen and studied with all the care and interest it is worthy to evoke. The Municipal Art Museum is a pleasant and decorative building. Its lower vestibule is surrounded by paintings of the German school of the nineteenth century, and also by many beautiful sculptures. Broad marble stairs lead from the lower to the upper vestibules, where the national work is displayed. Altogether there are in the museum 700 paintings, 125 sculptures, and 5,100 drawings and sketches. There is also a library and reference collection of 3,000 volumes.

National Opera

Riga has, like most European capitals and large cities, a national opera house and a national theatre, and these places are mainly devoted to showing the national customs and arts of the country. It is interesting to ponder on the fact that whereas Riga, and therefore Latvia, a small and very youthful country—although it has made such strides in a short time—should have these places of national representation, England, with her wealth of history and art, has resisted every attempt to form such institutions. Is it the difference in constitution between oursèlves and other peoples? Members who tour Europe on the Centenary Cruise may find, if they are interested, some answer to this problem.

An institution of which there is no parallel in this country, although such suggestions have been made, is the National Firemen's Museum, in which the Latvian Firemen's Association exhibits the development of fire-fighting appliances in the country from early times, with statistical tables, collections and models of machines and other data which should be of very great interest to those connected with the fire services in any capacity. The war museum is housed in a very historical "Powder" tower of beautiful proportions, the building itself being about 500 years old.

Besides its very handsome façade on to the Daugava, Riga has an exceptionally fine beach, which is sometimes called the Amber Shore, and also the Baltic Riviera. The beach itself is about half-an-hour's journey from the town, and consists of a narrow strip of forests and sand-dunes about 30 kilometres long, between the Gulf of Riga and the river Lielupe. The wide sandy shore is ideal for bathing, and is protected from cold winds by the pine-clad shore behind. The industrial port of the city

The National Opera House, Riga

(*Continued on page 93, col. 3*)

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THE METROPOLIS

Dr. W. A. Robson on the past and future of London Local Government

THE subject of "The Metropolis" was dealt with by Dr. W. A. Robson, LL.M., Ph.D., in a lecture at the London School of Economics. This was the fifth in the series of lectures arranged in connection with the celebration of the Municipal Centenary. Dr. Robson traced the growth of the modern system of municipal administration in the Metropolis from the earlier times when it was a medley of different units, and he argued that even to-day the local government of the Greater London area was still a confusion of authorities. He stressed the good services rendered by the old Metropolitan Board of Works and suggested an enlarged area for its successor, the London County Council.

Royal Commission's Views

The Royal Commission of 1835 omitted London from their celebrated Report, but issued, three years after, another volume dealing with the City. The Commissioners reported that they could not find any argument on which the course pursued with regard to other towns could be justified which did not apply with the same force to London "unless the magnitude of the change in this case should be considered as converting that which would otherwise be only a practical difficulty into an obligation of principle. We are unable to discover any circumstances justifying the distinction of a small area within the municipal boundary from the rest except that in fact it is, and has long been, so distinguished." The unity of London was insisted upon; the idea that the Metropolis should be split up into a number of communities was rejected, and the importance of central administration of paving, lighting, sewage, etc., was emphasised.

In 1848, even the Public Health Bill could not be applied to London until some so-called "preparatory" measures had been passed to clear away the mass of small authorities. In the period 1830 to 1855, Greater London was administered by 300 bodies, mostly vestries, with 10,500 members and under 250 Acts of Parliament. The cost was terrific.

The Times, in 1855, stated there was really no such place "as London at all, the huge city passing under this title being rent into an infinity of divisions, districts and areas. Within the Metropolitan limits the local administration is carried on by no fewer than 300 different bodies deriving powers from about 250 different local Acts, independent of general Acts."

Vestries and District Boards.

The Royal Commission on the Corporation of London in 1854 recommended very drastic reforms, but under them there would be no unity. The seven Parliamentary boroughs established by the Reform Bill of 1832 were to become municipalities, the rest of the Metropolis to be similarly divided. The suggestion of the seven municipalities was not adopted but the policy of the Commission was followed in 1855. The Act constituted the Metropolis with defined limits. The Metropolis was divided into 99 parishes. A Vestry was established in each of the 23 largest parishes; 59 smaller parishes were grouped into 15 districts under a District Board; there were eight extra-parochial places, mainly the Inns of Court. The Vestries had various powers, as had the Metropolitan Board of Works.

There was also an excellent provision that if further powers were required for the purpose of any improvement or for the benefit of the people of London, the Board could make application to Parliament for the passing of such a measure. That provision was something new for such a body. The Vestries were represented on the Board according to their size and wealth. By 1888 the Board had many achievements. It spent six and a half million pounds on main drains, maintained 2,603 acres of parks, etc., and controlled 500,000 buildings. It built the Thames Embankment, Northumberland Avenue, Shaftesbury Avenue, and Queen Victoria Street, freed ten Thames bridges from tolls at a cost of £1,376,000, and created the Municipal Fire Brigade. In 1858 its expenditure was £92,567, while in the following year it spent £260,952, and £1,926,057 in 1874.

The Act of 1855 did nothing, however, to supersede or obliterate the parochial divisions and the conflicting authorities remained. The City Corporation opposed Sir William Harcourt's Bill, but in 1888 the London County Council was set up. They had a variety of authorities, with the inevitable confusion. For example, when the London County Council controlled the tramways, the borough councils were frequently in conflict with them when any expansion or alteration of the system was contemplated. Now they had the London Passenger Transport Board.

A Bigger County Council?

The net result of the chaos and confusion brought about by conflicting and competing authorities was that London was not a city they could be entirely proud of. The Kingsway clearance, which had been beneficial socially and financially, was the only improvement of magnitude in London during the past 40 years. Barcelona, which was in a country supposed to be backward, was in many ways superior. The chaos was due to the absence of a comprehensive regional council armed with effective powers. He thought a solution might be found in the enlargement of the London County Council, taking in the City. The Council might be transformed into a Municipal Council of London with an area similar to that of the London Passenger Transport Board. He knew every vested interest would appeal to the parochial outlook, but he hoped that the next century would bring better results, a fairer city and a city with real civic pride.

THE CENTENARY CRUISE.

(*Continued from page 92*)

is usually a hive of industry, and ships of many nations—principally those with their own ports on the Baltic—are engaged in polluting the atmosphere in just the same way as anywhere else.

Architecture of the City

The visitor to Riga finds all types of architecture in the buildings of the town, but it is noteworthy that here are very few structures which can be called modernistic, and the city certainly does not favour those ultra-modern buildings which are becoming so common in Germany and Poland. Rather, the modern Latvian architecture takes the form of an adaptation of classic styles with a flavouring of massive stonework in our own English tradition, contrasting oddly with the high stepped gables and the elaborate carving of the older houses and buildings. There is also a touch of the East in many of the spires and cupolas in which the city abounds. It will be found that most "Rigans" speak English, the more than ordinary interest in our language being due to the Institute of English, which is controlled by the Latvian Minister of Education. The Institute is actually a training college for teachers of English in secondary schools, and has a commercial department and a well-equipped and expanding library of English literature. The President of the Latvian Republic lives in a sixteenth century castle in the city, a well-preserved and interesting example of the Germanic architecture of the Middle Ages. The town abounds in open spaces which have a very distinctive beauty and are well kept by the Municipality.

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Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers.
Various preliminary examinations (including matriculation).
Board of Trade (Inspectors of Weights and Measures and Gas Meters).
Chartered Institute of Secretaries, Incorporated Secretaries Association and Corporation of Certified Secretaries.
Sanitary Inspectors Joint Examination Board (both for England and Wales and for Scotland).
Royal Sanitary Institute (Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods, Food Hygiene (A.R.San.I.), and Sanitary Science).
Institution of Municipal and County Engineers (Testamur).
Poor Law Examinations Board (England and Wales).
(*a*) Relieving Officers.
(*b*) Institution Officers.
(*c*) Clerical Assistants.
Poor Law Examinations Board (Scotland).

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SCOTTISH NOTES

WITH regard to superannuation, Inverness Town Council, at a special meeting on February 22, adopted a Superannuation Scheme. Stirling Town Council have now received an actuarial report, which is under the consideration of the Council. Clydebank Town Council is, we believe, having a report prepared. The County Councils of Ayr, Argyll and Inverness are now having actuarial reports prepared with a view to the adoption of a scheme, and the question is being raised in Kirkcudbright and other places. The progress made of late with regard to this matter has been very gratifying.

On February 22, Mr. George S. Fraser, Town Clerk of Aberdeen, and Mr. Mortimer addressed a well-attended meeting of officials in Banffshire. At the close of the meeting, the feeling was expressed that it was desirable to form a separate Branch, including both County and Burgh Officials in the County, and a meeting was arranged with the object of forming such a Branch.

On March 7, Mr. Mortimer paid a quarterly visit to Inverness when he met the members of the Branch. Mr. Laing Smith, Town Clerk, presided, and the chief questions under discussion were those regarding the adoption of superannuation and the rights of officers in connection therewith.

The annual meeting of the widely scattered Argyll Branch was held at Oban on March 9, when Dr. Guy, the M.O.H., President of the Branch, occupied the chair. The secretary's report showed that the membership of the Branch now stood at 50 and that its finances were in a satisfactory position. The Divisional Secretary spoke on the recent activities of the Association. It was stated that an actuarial report for superannuation purposes was now being prepared. It was decided to try to arrange a summer outing at which all the members of the Branch could be present.

A meeting of the Education Sub-Committee of the Scottish District Committee was held on February 25 when adjustments were made on the Syllabus for the Summer School. It was also reported that the Correspondence Tuition Course for the Poor Law Diploma was now being proceeded with, and that there were already several applications for tuition. Those in the Poor Law Service who wish to take the Examination for the Diploma could not do better than to study through N.A.L.G.O. Correspondence Course. A circular giving particulars of the Course is being sent to all Poor Law Authorities.

The Law and Parliamentary Sub-Committee of the Scottish District Committee held a meeting on March 14 when draft Standing Orders were framed for the conduct of Scottish District Committee meetings. The meeting had also under consideration the Housing (Scotland) Bill, and it was reported that arrangements had been made with the Government Department for the insertion of Clauses in the Bill dealing with superannuation and compensation for loss of office. The Secretary also reported on the case, Carnegie v. Roxburgh County Council, now before the Court. He stated that the Lord Ordinary's judgment might be expected any day. A discussion took place regarding the new Compulsory Superannuation Bill, and it was decided to draw the attention of Headquarters to several desirable provisions, such as a provision making war service count for service under a Local Authority, and an amendment doing away with the provision as to extending an officer's service beyond the age of 65 years.

On March 5 a meeting was held of a committee of the Fife Branch when it was agreed that the Divisional Secretary should send in an application to the County Council asking for the restoration of the remaining portion of the salary cuts. It was also decided that the question of scale increments be taken up, as the present arrangement is in several instances most unsatisfactory.

THE SUMMER SCHOOLS

OXFORD AND ST. ANDREWS ARRANGEMENTS : SUBJECTS FOR THE SIR ARTHUR ROBINSON AND THE SCOTTISH ESSAY COMPETITIONS

THE Summer School for England and Wales will be held this year at Balliol College, Oxford, from July 20 to 27. Balliol College is one of the oldest and most notable of the Oxford Colleges; it was founded between 1260 and 1268 by Sir John de Balliol, father of the Scottish king of that name. At his death his plans were carried out by his widow Devorgulla or Dervorguilla of Galloway, whose original statutes dated 1282 are still preserved. The College was comparatively obscure until the last century, but has since become distinguished for the intellectual attainments of its members. Balliol has introduced into careers of eminence many celebrated men, including Dr. Adam Smith, Matthew Arnold, A. C. Swinburne, T. H. Green, Arnold Toynbee, Lord Oxford and Asquith, Lord Curzon, Lord Lansdowne, Lord Milner, Lord Grey of Fallodon.

The School will be opened at dinner on Saturday, July 20, by the Rt. Hon. Sir E. Hilton Young, G.B.E., D.S.O., D.S.C., M.P., the Minister of Health.

In view of the fact that the Centenary of Local Government is being celebrated this year, the lectures of the 1935 Summer School will be devoted to a survey of the influence of local government on the life of the community.

The lectures will be of an historical character, and will give a general picture of local administration in early communities, of how local government as we now conceive it emerged and the progress of its evolution, leading up to an analysis of the present-day influence of local government and its possible future development.

The Lectures

The title of the lectures will be "The Centenary of Local Government." Each lecture will be of one hour's duration, and the lectures will be divided into three groups. A seminar or discussion class will be held at the conclusion of each group of lectures.

DR. W. IVOR JENNINGS, M.A., LL.B. (Cantab.), Reader in English Law in the University of London, will deliver the first group of lectures dealing with an "Historical Survey of Local Government," comprising :—

Lecture No. 1. The background of modern Local Government.

Lecture No. 2. The Justices and the *Ad Hoc* Authorities.

Lecture No. 3. Modern Local Government.

PROFESSOR J. H. JONES, M.A., Professor of Economics and Head of the Commerce Department, University of Leeds, will deliver the second group of lectures dealing with "The Economic Influence of Local Government," comprising :—

Lecture No. 4. The incidence and effect of Rates.

Lecture No. 5. Local Government and the Distribution of Wealth.

Lecture No. 6. The Stabilising Influence of Local Government and the Trade Cycle.

MR. A. K. WHITE, M.A., Caird Lecturer in Political Philosophy in the University of Glasgow, will deliver the third group of lectures dealing with "The Social Influence of Local Government," comprising:—

Lecture No. 7. Local Initiative and Powers.

Lecture No. 8. Economic Planning and the Development of Social Services.

Lecture No. 9. Local Government and the State.

Scottish Summer School

The Scottish Summer School will be held at St. Salvator's Hall, St. Andrew's University, from June 22 to June 29. The School will be opened by the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Sir Alexander B. Swan. Lectures will be given on the social background of Victorian Scotland and the development of Local Government in Victorian Scotland, by Mr. W. M. Marwick, M.A., of Edinburgh University. Lectures will also be given by Dr. Hamilton, of Aberdeen University. A debate has been arranged between Dr. Bowie, of Dundee, and Mr. A. K. White, of Glasgow University, on "Should the State Come First and Liberty Second?"

Essay Competition

Sir Arthur Robinson, G.C.B., C.B.E., Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, has again intimated his desire to associate himself with the Summer School, and has offered prizes of the value of five guineas to be competed for in an Essay Competition. The competition is open to members of N.A.L.G.O. in England and Wales, and will be divided into two classes :—

Class I. For officers whose salary is £250 per annum or more; value of prize three guineas.

Class II. For officers whose salary is less than £250 per annum; value of prize two guineas.

The subjects from which the candidates may choose are the same for both classes, viz.:—

1. Do you consider it possible to lay down in the sphere of the social services lines of demarcation between what is appropriate to (a) local authorities and (b) voluntary bodies? If so, what lines do you suggest?
2. Suggest any *two* local government services in which the existing law requires substantial amendment. Explain the present difficulties and sketch the amendment proposed.
3. It is said that industry is gravitating to London. Is this true, and if so can you explain it? Do you think that the Government should check or control any such movement, and if so how do you suggest that it should be done?

The winning essay, or a précis thereof, will be published in LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

Rules of the Competition

1. The competition is open to all members of the N.A.L.G.O., in England and Wales.
2. The essay may be in manuscript, typewritten or printed.
3. No stipulation is made as to length.
4. The final selection by Sir Arthur Robinson must be taken as conclusive.
5. Essays must reach the General Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on or before June 14, 1935.
6. Each essay must be headed with the title chosen, a nom-de-plume and a note of whether the competitor desires his essay to be judged in Class I or Class II. A sealed envelope containing the author's name, address and branch, and bearing on the outside his nom-de-plume and class, must accompany the essay. Indication of the author's identity should not appear on the essay.
7. The result of the competition will be announced prior to July 20, 1935.

Scottish Essay Competition

Mr. J. E. Highton, C.B.E., B.L., Secretary to the Department of Health for Scotland, has very kindly instituted an Essay Competition in connection with the School. This competition is open to Scottish Members of Nalgo, whether they attend the School or not. The full rules for the Competition are as follows :—

1. The Competition will be divided into two classes, viz.:—
   Class 1. For officers whose salary is £250 per annum or more.
   Class 2. For officers whose salary is less than £250 per annum.
2. A prize to the value of three guineas will be awarded to the competitor who submits the best essay in Class 1; a Prize to the value of two guineas to the competitor who submits the best essay in Class 2.
3. The Competition is open to all members of N.A.L.G.O. in Scotland.
4. No stipulation is made as to the length of the essay.
5. The final selection by Mr. J. E. Highton, Secretary to the Department of Health for Scotland, must be taken as conclusive.
6. Essays must reach the Divisional Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 135 Wellington Street, Glasgow, on or before June 1, 1935.
7. Each essay must be headed with the title chosen, a nom-de-plume and a note stating whether the essay is submitted in Class 1 or 2.
8. A sealed envelope containing the author's name, address and branch, and bearing on the outside his nom-de-plume and the class in which the essay is submitted, must accompany the essay. Indication of the author's identity should not appear on the essay.
9. The result of the competition will be announced prior to June 22, 1935.

The subjects from which the candidates may choose are :—

1. Discuss the place of the central and of the local authority in national administration; what are the characteristics of the existing relations between the two? how far do they depend for successful operation upon formal and how far upon informal action? and in what respects, if any, would you suggest methods to improve them?
2. Discuss the organisation of society according to function and the necessary re-arrangement of Government machinery and control that would result.
3. Discuss, with special reference to present tendencies, the bearing of modern development of transport and communications, and of the rate of growth of population on units and areas of local government in Scotland.

N.A.L.G.O. HOLIDAY CENTRES RE-UNIONS

The re-union of persons who had visited the Association's Holiday Centres was held at Harrods' Restaurant, London, on Saturday, February 16, and drew an attendance of 900 and was a great success. A cabaret performance by the "Gay Companions," a Concert Party under the leadership of "Jimjack" who is well known to many who have visited Croyde Bay, was a most enjoyable item of the programme and The Western Brothers, the well-known entertainers, delighted the company for 20 minutes.

The Northern re-union which was held in Manchester on Saturday, March 23, was outstanding in every way. Unfortunately the limits of the "Manchester Limited Restaurant" where it was held necessititated the sale of tickets ceasing nearly three weeks before the function was held. Over 350 attended and the cabaret entertainment was for the second year in succession provided by the Manchester Municipal Players, and proved just as popular and entertaining as on the previous occasion. The famous "Nalgo" girls were probably first favourites with the audience. Miss Peggy Brown proved a versatile artist, for in addition to a short character study, she joined Will Riley in a duet and dance, and also sang a crooning number. A novelty in the way of a lightning artist was Walter Leah, whose sketches and skits in black and white were full of topical and camping allusions.

N.A.L.G.O. SCHOLARSHIPS

AMENDMENTS OF THE SCHEME : EXTENDED FACILITIES

THE National Executive Council has recently given consideration to a report on the working of the Scholarships Scheme since its inception, and in view of administrative difficulties which have arisen certain amendments have been introduced into the scheme.

The attention of members is drawn to the facilities available under the Scholarships Scheme which has now been extended to include awards on the results of the examinations conducted by the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants and the Incorporated Secretaries Association.

Particulars of the Exhibitions, Scholarships and Prizes awarded under the scheme and the rules governing the scheme are given below:

Exhibitions

10 *Exhibitions* of the value of £20 each to be awarded annually on the results of the Intermediate Examinations of the following professional and technical bodies to assist members to prepare and sit for their Final Examinations.

1. National Association of Local Government officers.*
2. Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants (Incorporated).
3. Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors.
4. Institute of Cost and Works Accountants.
5. Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers.
6. Chartered Institute of Secretaries.
7. Incorporated Secretaries Association.
8. Poor Law Examinations Board (Clerical Assistants).
9. Library Association.
10. Law Society.

The amount of the exhibition will only be paid on production of satisfactory evidence that the holder has entered upon his course of study for the Final Examination.

*In this case the award will be referred to as the "E. W. B. Abbott" Exhibition.

Scholarships

16 *Scholarships* to be awarded annually on the results of the Final Examinations of the following:—

1 to 10. The examining institutions mentioned in the previous section.

11. Poor Law Examinations Board (Relieving Officers).
12. Poor Law Examinations Board (Institutions Officers).
13. Board of Trade (Inspectors of Weights and Measures).
14. Institution of Municipal and County Engineers (Testamur)†
15. Poor Law Diploma for Scotland.
16. Sanitary Association of Scotland.

†In this case the award will be referred to as the "F. Marsden" Scholarship.

The object of these Scholarships is to enable the successful candidates to acquire a Degree or Diploma, including advanced study of Public Administration at any of the Universities. The value of the award is £30 if the course be taken at the Universities of London, Manchester or Liverpool, and £20 if the course be taken at the Universities of Glasgow, Leeds or Sheffield. Half of the amount of the Scholarship will be paid on production of satisfactory evidence that the holder has entered on the first year of studies and the other half on commencing the second year's course.

Scholarships will be awarded only to enable students to prepare for a Degree or Diploma including advanced study of Public Administration and will not be available for any other purpose.

The offer of a Scholarship shall be accepted immediately after notification of the award, except that the award may be held in abeyance on production of satisfactory evidence that the holder is preparing for an examination which is a condition precedent to entry to a Degree or Diploma course.

Prizes

16 *Prizes* of the value of £10 each to be awarded annually on the results of the Final Examinations set out in the preceding section to persons who have not been awarded the N.A.L.G.O. Scholarship for the year, to enable them to attend the N.A.L.G.O. Summer School.

The prizes will be paid during the course of the Summer School attended by the Prize-winners.

Students accepting the award of a Prize will be required to attend the Summer School immediately following notification of the award or the next succeeding Summer School or to accept the award as an honorary award.

Sister Tutor Scholarship

1 *Sister Tutor Scholarship* of the value of £150 to be awarded once in three years on the results of a special examination held by the College of Nursing. The object of this scholarship is to enable a trained nurse to take the one year Sister Tutor Course at King's College of Household and Social Science, University of London. An application form in connection with the Sister Tutor Scholarship should be forwarded to the General Secretary in the first half of the month of April.

The Sister Tutor Scholarship will be paid in three instalments corresponding to the three University terms.

RULES

1. Where only one annual examination is held the awards will be made on the basis of the results of that examination.

2. Where two or more examinations are held in a calendar year, the awards will be made on the basis of the results of all the examinations held between September 1 and August 31.

3. Awards will be made only in the case of candidates who have passed the whole examination at one sitting.

4. Applications for awards must be submitted to the General Secretary not later than two months after the date of the announcement of the results of the examination which qualifies them for entry for an award, except in the case of the Sister Tutor Scholarship.

5. Applicants must have been members of the N.A.L.G.O. for one full year before the date of the examination which qualifies them for entry for an award, or from the date of eligibility for membership if the period is less than one year.

6. No award will be made unless in the opinion of the Examining Institution the successful candidates have reached a sufficiently high standard in the examination and unless the National Executive Council consider the applications such as to justify an award.

Last date for applications for awards in respect of examinations already held.

The results of the examinations of the following bodies have now been published:—

Month of Examination	Examining Body
October	(i) I.M.C.E. Testamur.
	(ii) Poor Law Diploma (Scotland).
	(iii) Royal Sanitary Association (Scotland).
November	(i) Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors.
	(ii) Law Society.
	(iii) Board of Trade (Weights and Measures).
December	(i) Chartered Institute of Secretaries.
	(ii) Library Association.
January	(i) N.A.L.G.O.
	(ii) Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants

In order that the new rules may be brought into operation, applications for awards on the results of the foregoing examinations should be submitted not later than **May 17.**

SALARIES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS

Salary Deductions

The county councils of Leicestershire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire and the borough of Pudsey have decided to restore full salaries as from March 31, 1935, and the Dundee Corporation will do so as from May 16, 1935.

Superannuation

Schemes have recently be enadopted by the following authorities:—

	Appointed Day.
Barnoldswick U.D.C. (24 officers and 56 servants included)	April 1, 1935
Bexhill B.	April 1, 1935
Harrogate B. (621 officers and servants included)	July 1, 1935
Kidderminster (43 officers and 74 servants included)	May 1, 1935
Leigh B.	April 1, 1935
Cheadle & Gatley U.D.C.	April 1, 1935
Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Committee for Tuberculosis	

The Ebbw Vale Urban District Council received a deputation from the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, the Electrical Trades Union and the Building Trades Operatives and N.A.L.G.O. regarding the adoption of a Superannuation Scheme. Speaking on behalf of the deputation, Mr. J. E. N. Davis, N.A.L.G.O., urged that it was in the best interest of the Council to adopt a scheme at once. The Council thanked the deputation and promised to give the plea sympathetic consideration.

The Divisional Secretary has addressed the staff of the Darlington R.D.C. on the question of superannuation. It was decided to make application to the Council for the adoption of the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922.

Arising from a meeting with the Swinton U.D.C. which has been addressed by the Divisional Secretary, the Council has decided to obtain an Actuarial Report in respect of the Superannuation Act, 1922.

Salaries Scales

Representatives of the Branch accompanied the Divisional Secretary to two meetings which have been held with a special Sub-Committee of the Finance Committee at Gateshead in respect of a revision of the Salary and Grading Scheme. The meetings were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and goodwill on both sides, and considerable progress has been made. Mr. A. J. McGregor, the Honorary Secretary of the Branch, ably placed before the Committee a number of anomalies, many of which were rectified. Whilst the Committee did not feel able to concede all our requests, we desire to place on record the kindly feeling which was extended towards the deputation. We are sure that the spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding will have been strengthened as a result of these discussions.

The Northumberland County Council have had under consideration the scale of salaries for Junior Clerks. Hitherto the scale of a junior has been £40 rising by annual increments of £10 to £80 per annum, and unless a vacancy occurred there was no provision for any further advancement. In reporting on this matter the Committee stated that they were of opinion that such a position was neither likely to encourage efficiency nor to attract the best type of candidate to the Council's service. They therefore decided to amend the scale of salaries applicable to Junior Clerks in the following manner:—

> "The salary of a junior clerk who has reached the maximum salary under the scale (£80) and has attained the age of 21 years shall, subject to a satisfactory report from his principal officer to the Clerk of the Council, be increased by four annual increments of £20 a year to a maximum salary of £160 a year."

The Borough of Wednesbury and the Sedgley Urban District Council have approved salaries and grading schemes to come into operation on April 1, 1935. While the scales are by no means ideal, they represent an improvement on present conditions, while the acceptance of the principle of grading is a distinct step forward.

The Finance Committee of the West Riding Mental Hospitals Board appointed a special sub-committee to examine the salaries of the medical and administrative staffs of the Board. Very drastic recommendations were made by the sub-committee and approved by the Finance Committee and the proposed reductions ranged from £110 to £7. As the result of a communication from the divisional secretary, the Board referred these recommendations back to the Finance Committee. The divisional secretary then appeared before the Finance Committee, but, as the Committee virtually adhered to its previous decisions, he made application for an interview with the Board. This application was granted and, as a result of this last interview, the whole of the Committee's decisions were negatived. The result is regarded as a magnificent achievement for the Association, and a special meeting of the branch expressed its appreciation and thanks to the divisional secretary " for his indefatigable efforts in bringing the salaries anomolies situation to a most satisfactory and successful issue."

Office Hours

At their meeting on February 14, the Ashton-under-Lyne Council confirmed the recommendation of the Staffs' Salaries Committee for the adoption of the grading of the Lancashire and Cheshire Provincial Whitley Council in respect of the clerical staff of the Transport Department, with modifications in the case of certain members of the female staff.

The Caterham and Warlingham Branch applied for an amendment of the staff hours from 9 a.m. until 12 noon, instead of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Saturdays, but the General Purposes Committee was not prepared to accede to this request. It has, however, authorised the clerk of the council to arrange for each officer to be released from duty for one complete Saturday morning every six weeks.

Holidays

Following representations made by the Association to the Oldham Council, the undermentioned revision of Annual Holidays has taken place in respect of Nurses at Municipal Hospitals :—

	New Holidays.	*Old Holidays.*
Sisters and Staff Nurses	28 days	21 days
Probationers	21 days	14 days

Local Joint Committees

A local joint committee, consisting of the Chairman and four members of the Establishment Committee and four members of the local branch of the Association, has just been set up at Luton and the staff, through its representatives, has been asked to submit amendments to the grading scheme in order that the scheme may apply to all members of the Corporation staff.

A local joint committee has also been established at Mitcham.

COST OF LIVING

Below, we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months : October, 43; November, 44; December, 44; January, 43; February, 42; March, 41; the percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follows :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Food	25	24	22
Rent	56	56	56
Clothing ..	90	90	90
Fuel and Light	75	75	75
Other items ..	75	70	70

Total Loss by Fire.

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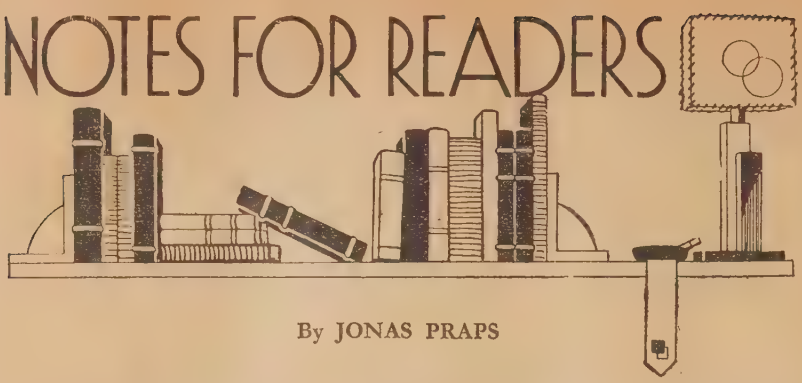

By JONAS PRAPS

"THE Exemplary Mr. Day" by Sir S. H. Scott (Faber 8/6) bears also a secondary title describing the subject of the biography as "a philosopher in search of the life of virtue and of a paragon among women." Mr. Day flourished during the period 1748-1789 and is best remembered in literature as the author of "Sandford and Merton"—a sort of edition de luxe of "Eric." Day was a quaint character. A model of honesty in an age when graft was extensively practised, stolid and sober. In the search for a model wife he selected and educated on the Rousseau plan two orphan girls with a view to marrying one of them. The search for the "paragon among women" proved elusive—the ladies preferring a little more gaiety than he offered them. The book is a short but interesting sudy of a very curious eighteenth-century character.

Travel On Foot

"Five Watersheds" is by Reynold Bray (Cape 10/6) and tells the story of a sledge journey by two men from Norway to Russian Lapland commencing at Bodo and ending at Murmansk. The journey was made on foot, the sledge being drawn by a single reindeer. The travellers met with varying receptions by the Lapps, some kindly, some the reverse, and they were eventually betrayed to the Russians by a Lapp anxious to receive a reward. The book is a very human document and the illustrations like the journey are out of the ordinary.

"While Rome Burns" by Alexander Woollcot (Barker 8/6) is a clever and interesting medley. Mr. Woollcot is a New York journalist and literary critic. The book includes travel sketches, personal experiences, criticisms of authors, dramatists and some excellent short mystery and murder stories. That of the aged demented gardener, John Scripture, and the murder of a cook is perfect in its way. The author, if caustic, is cleverly witty in his evaluation of men and things.

More About Russia

One of the most interesting of the many books on life in Russia during the past eight or ten years is by a daughter of Tolstoy, "I Worked for the Soviet" (Allen and Unwin 10/6). In it the Countess Alexandra Tolstoy gives an account of her experiences under Soviet rule and what the Revolution has done for her. It is a terrible picture of the suffering and ill-treatment of the bourgeoisie. She was strongly patriotic, and despite persecution and imprisonment worked for her country until she found "peace" in a, to her, foreign clime. There is a tone of sincerity in the book, but it is a strong indictment of the "freedom" under Soviet rule.

"Loafing round the Globe" by Richard Katz (Hutchinson 18s.) is globe-trotting in excelsis. The author seems to have had the happy knack of making himself at home whether in Africa, Asia, Austria, New Zealand, Polynesia or America. He spent two years in completing his trip, and the result is a very graphic account of the countries and peoples. The book is a pleasant picture of life in the countries he visited, and the author made himself at home with native as well as ruler.

Mr. Whit Burnett is a master of short-story writing, and not only of writing but selecting, for he is part-editor of the American Story Magazine. "The Maker of Signs" (Cape 7s. 6d.) is a collection of his own short stories. The range is wide and all have a distinctive flavour.

"A Derbyshire Tragedy" by F. C. Boden (Dent 4s. 6d.) is a rather lurid picture of life in a Derbyshire coal-mining district. The life and work of the miner is graphically described and with a seriousness the subject requires: the work is rightly dubbed a tragedy but it is excellently written.

An unemployed working man gives his views of present-day working conditions in "Caliban Shrieks" by Jack Hilton (Cobden-Sanderson 6s.). He is rather caustic in his outlook on life. He describes the "main mission" of trade unions to-day as "put and take." "The member pays or puts so much a week when he is in clover, and takes out so much a week when he is badly." The book is not strictly a record of personal experience, but rather the author's reflections upon his experience of life.

Walsall N.A.L.G.O. Football Club entertained Kidderminster N.A.L.G.O. Football Club at Leamore Playing Fields on March 2, and after an enjoyable game gained a victory by eight goals to three. Walsall N.A.L.G.O. are members of the Birmingham Amateur Football League, and are having a very successful season. The Hon. Secretary of the Club will be glad to hear from any other N.A.L.G.O. team within reasonable distance, with a view to arranging similar matches for next season, either at Walsall or away.

PERSONAL

Workington Town Council has unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. F. Dean, A.I.S.A., Chief Clerk, Town Clerk's Department, Colne, as Chief Clerk in the Town Clerk's Department.

Mr. C. E. Sanderson, of Nottingham, has been appointed Chief Housing Inspector of the Liverpool City Council. Prior to his appointment as Housing Inspector at Nottingham in 1931, Mr. Sanderson served in the Health Departments of Hendon (1927-31), Wolverhampton (1925-27) and York (1918-1925).

We record with regret the death of Mr. W. D. Scarlett, Superintendent of the County Taxation Department of the Stafford County Council. Mr. Scarlett for many years took a keen interest in the Association, and in the early days of the Branch acted as Hon. Treasurer.

Mr. F. B. Croot, formerly Assistant Overseer for the Parish of Rainham, Essex, 1922-1927, Rates Collector and Housing Manager Romford Rural District Council 1927-1934, has resigned from the Treasurers' Department, Hornchurch Urban District Council.

On March 31 Col. C. E. F. Copeman, C.M.G., D.L., who since 1907 has been Clerk of the Peace and Clerk of the Council of the Isle of Ely, retired from the Service on account of ill-health. Col. Copeman holds the office of President of the Isle of Ely Branch of N.A.L.G.O. and has been a member since its inception. He has at all times had the interest of the staff at heart. On March 19 he was the recipient of a time-piece and framed photograph. Mr. R. J. Caslake, Assistant County Accountant, in making the presentation on behalf of the staff, spoke of the affection the staff held for Col. Copeman and of their appreciation of his interest in their welfare. Mr. Gamblin also expressed similar sentiments, speaking with over 20 years' association with the Colonel. Following this the Chief Constable, Capt. Rivers-Carnac, on behalf of the officers and men of the Isle Constabulary, asked Col. Copeman to accept a silver cigar and cigarette cabinet as a mark of their appreciation. The County Council made a further presentation of a silver salver engraved with the arms of the Council and facsimile signatures of the aldermen and councillors.

Mr. W. W. Reed, who has been Clerk in the Public Health Department of Jarrow Corporation for the past six years has been appointed an Additional Sanitary Inspector with the same Authority.

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The Nalgo E

As a result of the phenomenal progress made by the Society since inception in August, 1932, and the very satisfactory financial position at the end of 1934, the Committee of Management has decided to reduce the rate of interest on all mortgages from the 1st January, 1935. The rates of interest given on Share and Deposit Investments remain unaltered.

Points in the Scheme

1. Generous advances are made on Freehold and Leasehold property, recently built or otherwise, repayable over any term up to 25 years. If more than 90% of the value is borrowed the maximum term of repayment is 20 years.
2. A member should select his house, complete the application form provided and forward it with the appropriate survey fee. Within 7 to 10 days he will be notified of the Society's decision and the whole matter can then be completed with the minimum of delay.
3. The Society will finance the erection of a house built to a member's own design and make advances to the Builder during construction. The member must arrange to purchase the land at the outset, but the Society's final advance can include the value of the land in addition to the value of the house.
4. The Society is prepared to consider applications of any amount.
5. A member who already owns a house can mortgage it with the Society. The scheme is not restricted to new purchases.
6. The Society will advance on property purchased for investment. Its object is to enable a member not only to become the owner of the house in which he lives, but to assist him to acquire other property.

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NALGO BUIL

ASSETS EXCEED £1,250,000 **£75**

Explanatory literature and application fo

24 ABINGDON STRE

-N.A.L.G.O. LEADS THE WAY

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Once again N.A.L.G.O. has demonstrated its value to the members. The Nalgo Building Society's facilities for house purchase are now unrivalled throughout the Building Society movement. Members of N.A.L.G.O. and their wives or husbands (no other person is eligible for an advance) are offered the best possible terms for purchasing a house by converting their rent into savings.

Are you paying Rent?

Are you buying a house for someone else? Why not buy one for yourself? That part of your monthly payment to the Society which represents interest will be less than your rent and the balance will be actual savings.

COMBINED CALENDAR MONTHLY REPAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST PER £100 BORROWED

Term of Mortgage	*Interest at* $4\frac{1}{4}\%$	*Interest at* $4\frac{1}{2}\%$	*Interest at* $4\frac{3}{4}\%$
Years	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
10	1 0 10	1 1 1	1 1 4
12	18 1	18 4	18 7
15	15 4	15 7	15 10
17	14 0	14 3	14 6
20	12 7	12 10	13 1
23	11 6	11 10	12 1
25	11 0	11 3	11 6

Example: £600 borrowed for 25 years at $4\frac{1}{2}\%$—repayment £3 7s. 6d. per month.

NG SOCIETY

VAILABLE FOR MORTGAGES DURING 1935

ied from the Branch Offices or from

'ESTMINSTER, S.W.I

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

HEADQUARTERS:
24 ABINGDON STREET,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

ALL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to the General Secretary and endorsed with the appropriate subject, e.g., "Legal," "Insurance," "Finance," "Organisation," "Education," or "Special Activities."
Telephone: Victoria 8592 (6 lines).
Telegrams: Natassoc, Parl, London.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been issued to branch officers from headquarters:—

MARCH 1, 1935.

Circular No. 16/*AS*/1935.
(To local correspondents of the approved Society.)
(*a*) Concerning maternity benefit claims and enclosing a supply of the revised form of application.
(*b*) Giving information relating to grants made for optical benefit.

MARCH 11, 1935.

Circular No. 17/1935.
(To local correspondents of the Provident Society.)
(*a*) Regarding a membership campaign and competition for 1935.
(*b*) Concerning the collection of subscriptions from members in arrears.
(*c*) Concerning the classification of new members of the Provident Society.

MARCH 13, 1935.

Circular No. 18/1935.
(To branch secretaries.)
Containing particulars relating to the N.A.L.G.O. Holiday Guide, 1935, and enclosing form for the ordering of copies.
Circular No. 19/*Thrift*/1935.
(To branch secretaries.)
Concerning the trading scheme operated by the Association and requesting information from branches in connection with such schemes.
Circular No. 20/1935.
(To branch secretaries.)
Enclosing a leaflet showing the range of articles available in N.A.L.G.O. colours and concerning the purchase of such articles.
Circular No. 21/1935.
(To branch secretaries.)
(*a*) Enclosing copies of new holiday centres brochure and application form for accommodation at the centres.
(*b*) Giving a statement of the vacant accommodation at each centre.
Circular No. 22/LGS/1935.
(To branch secretaries.)
Concerning firms which advertise in LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

MARCH 19, 1935.

Circular No. 23/*BS*/1935.
(To local correspondents of the Building Society.)
(*a*) Announcing a reduction in the rate of interest on mortgages.
(*b*) Stating that a cheque for commission due had been sent to the branch honorary treasurer.
(*c*) Regarding statement of accounts and audit of Pass Books.

MARCH 22, 1935.

Circular No. 24/1935.
(To local correspondents of Logomia.)
(*a*) Enclosing copy of a letter concerning Life and Endowment Assurances.
(*b*) Setting out form for requisitioning copies for distribution to members.

Circular No. 25/*BS*/1935.
(To local correspondents of the Building Society.)
Enclosing a supply of leaflets announcing the reduction in the rates of interest on mortgages, a copy of each of the Society's leaflets at present in circulation and a small supply of application forms for advances.

CHELTENHAM CONFERENCE
DATES TO REMEMBER

April 15.—Amendments to motions in Conference Agenda to be received at Headquarters by 5 p.m.
April 15.—Voting Papers for N.E.C. to be in hands of Branch Secretaries.
April 23.—Voting Papers for N.E.C. to be in hands of members.
May 1.—Voting Papers to be in hands of Secretary of District Committee.
May 1.—Journal will contain amendments to motions in Conference Agenda.
May 2.—Counting of votes for N.E.C. commences in each district.
May 25.—Conference Agenda (containing motions and amendments thereto) and list of representatives to be forwarded to representatives.
May 25.—Branches desiring to divide voting strength at Conference to notify Headquarters of allocation.
June 8.—Whit Saturday. First day of Conference Proceedings.
June 10.—Whit Monday (Bank Holiday). Second day of Conference Proceedings.

CONFERENCE TRAVELLING

Persons travelling to the annual conference at Cheltenham at Whitsuntide will be able to use the summer tickets which the railway companies are continuing to issue between all principal points on any day, available for return on any day, within one calendar month, at the ordinary single fare and one-third for the double journey (fractions of 3d. reckoned as 3d.). Minimum fares: First class 4/- Third class 2/6.

Arrangements will be madet hrough headquarters for the reservation of seats for those who will be travelling from London. A party of eight or more travelling together by the G.W.R. can have accommodation reserved for them free of charge on notification of their requirements to the local station master a few days before travelling. Similar arrangements, no doubt, can be made with other railway companies. For individual passengers the charge for the reservation of one seat is 1s.

NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY OFFICERS

The following nominations for honorary officers of the Association for the year 1935-36 have been made by the District Committees:

President: G. W. Coster, M.B.E.
Two vice-presidents: Mr. W. E. Lloyd, Mr. F. R. Finch, Mr. W. W. Armitage, Mr. J. L. Holland, and Mr. D. L. Griffiths.
Three trustees: Mr. H. Begg, Mr. S. Lord, and Mr. W. H. Whinnerah.
Hon. treasurer: Mr. W. E. Lloyd.
Hon. solicitor for England: Mr. P. H. Harrold.
Hon. solicitor for Wales: Mr. D. J. Parry.
Hon. solicitor for Scotland: Mr. G. S. Fraser.

The National Executive Council at its meeting on March 16 made the following nominations:—

President: G. W. Coster, M.B.E.
Two vice-presidents: Mr. W. E. Lloyd, and Mr. J. L. Holland.
Three trustees: Mr. H. Begg, Mr. S. Lord, and Mr. W. H. Whinnerah.
Hon. treasurer: Mr. W. E. Lloyd.
Hon. solicitor for England: Mr. P. H. Harrold.
Hon. solicitor for Wales: Mr. D. J. Parry.
Hon. solicitor for Scotland: Mr. G. S. Fraser.

A SUCCESSFUL SLANDER ACTION

By the Legal Secretary

A successful verdict was returned recent in a slander action in which two members the Association were concerned as plaintiff During the course of his election address a candidate seeking election to a County Counc saw fit to attack the officials of a Rural Distri Council. He held a number of meetings i different parts of his division and chose those meetings to utter defamatory statemen of a serious character reflecting injuriously o the two members in their official capacit The members consulted the Association an the Association's solicitors wrote to the defen dant asking for a full and unqualified retractio and apology, but the defendant merely replie by sticking the letters up in the window of h shop. A joint action of slander was accordingl instituted by the members.

Subsequent to the institution of proceeding the defendant was made a bankrupt for non payment of the costs and damages awarde against him in a previous action of slande brought by another official of the same loc authority. He accordingly applied for an obtained legal advice and assistance as a Poo Person and a solicitor and counsel wer allotted to him. When the case came on fo hearing, however, the defendant conducted hi own defence because he could not get assigne to him the one counsel he wished to have.

The defendant did not plead justificatio in his defence, the only defence put forwar being that the words complained of were no uttered. The defendant asked leave durin the hearing to amend the pleadings so that h could prove that the words were true. Th Assize Judge refused to accede to this reques He held that the plaintiffs were entitled t know on what issue the case was to be fough and that it was too late for the pleadings the to be amended as such a course would embarras the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs brought forwar a number of witnesses who had attende various meetings held by the defendant an who testified that the words complained o had been spoken by the defendant in the cours of his election speeches. In cross-examinatio the defendant admitted making statement which were not substantially different fro those which the plaintiffs alleged had bee uttered. At the conclusion of the Judge' summing up the jury without leaving the bo found for the plaintiffs and assessed the damage at £300 each. The Judge also granted a injunction to restrain the defendant fro repeating these statements.

B. AND O. FUND

Three district committees have alread "set the ball rolling" for a record purse a Cheltenham. The Metropolitan, North Easter and Yorkshire District Committees have re cently circularised every member of the Associa tion within their respective areas drawing the attention to the work of the Benevolent an Orphan Fund, the need for assistance from ever member so that that work may not be curtaile and two of them have emphasised the decisio of the Scarborough Conference, which may b summarised as, "Leave it to us; we'll find th money." Well, the figures for 1934 have no borne out that optimistic promise, but there yet time to retrieve the position, and Chelte ham expects £20,000. Have you yet provid your quota and, incidentally, have you boug your copy of "Beano"? If not, rememb that there is no time like the present.

IMPORTANT DATES

April 18.—The Holiday Centres at Croy Bay and Cayton Bay open for the season.
April 30.—Second quarterly return of alte tions in Register of Membership.

Local Government Service

Editorial and Advertisement Offices, 3 and 4 Clement's Inn, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Telephone: Holborn 2827-2828-2829.

Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration.

Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed.

Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE preparations for the annual conference, which is this year to be held at Cheltenham, are beginning to occupy the thoughts of the branches, of the members generally, and those who have been appointed to represent their branches more particularly. The Cheltenham Branch is making a very determined effort to please everyone, and, as in previous years, the success of the organisation, which is the responsibility of the Conference Council, will depend upon the prompt reply of each representative to the invitations which have been sent out during the past few days. As usual, a special booking and reservation form is sent to each representative, and each one is expected to send that form, clearly filled in, and the remittance to cover the cost of tickets, to the Conference Secretary by the date specified on the form. Without that simple action of reciprocity success is handicapped. Anyone who has had experience in organising a conference will know how vitally important it is that the local officials should receive prompt and clear indications as to what the representatives require.

Notices of Motion

The first important despatch of papers has already been sent to the appointed representatives, and in this issue we print the agenda. Once again we have to admit that most of the notices of motion are of a domestic character. There are a number of alterations to rules submitted by the National Executive Council, but there are very few items which lend themselves to first-class debates such as those we had on the Hadow report last year. There is, however, the hope that the final agenda will be much more interesting. The Annual Report goes out with the agenda, and it is competent for branches to put down considered amendments to paragraphs in the Annual Report. It is usually from these that the interesting discussions arise.

Three Important Issues

Administratively, three issues of first-class importance emerge: the first is the proposed insurance scheme to meet hospital and nursing home expenses—a provision which will meet a long-felt want. There is also the announcement in the report that the Building Society proposes to reduce its rate of interest on money loaned on mortgage for house purchase purposes, but the most important proposal is embodied in the scheme to hypothecate the sum total of the subscriptions paid by every junior member up to the age of 21 years in order to give him a start in the Provident Society sickness insurance scheme. It is not always easy to convince a junior member who is full of youthful vigour that he should commence to make preparations for those days which come to him later in life when the expense of sickness and ill-health have to be met. The Nalgo Provident Society is a blessing to thousands of local government officers, and we can imagine the time coming, many years ahead, when every local government officer will be thankful that N.A.L.G.O. gave him his start in prudent saving.

After all, public officers who are denied the facilities for making money have to practise the art of parcelling out their regular but frugal earnings. In this respect the principles of insurance are most useful. Many people believe, because their salaries are regular and paid in full for a limited period, when they are off duty through illness, that there is no necessity to make preparation against such contingencies. This is wrong. Illness usually comes at a time when other responsibilities have been undertaken and illness brings additional expenditure. It is to meet this additional expenditure, to provide those comforts that are absolutely essential to recuperation, that the Nalgo Provident Society sickness scheme is designed.

Economic Thrift

It will be a generous gesture of N.A.L.G.O. to place to the credit of every member the whole of the amount of his or her subscriptions paid to the Association up to the age of 21 years in the Provident Society. This will give all young members a start in life which will encourage them to make reasonable but adequate preparation for future uncertainties. It will also provide a very practical lesson in the value of economic thrift. The Provident Society, like every other activity of the Association, showed wonderful results during the past year. It has maintained its usual high proportion of amount returned to the "Rest" Fund; again we are pleased to see that the amount allocated is 8½d. out of each 1s.

This important ratio is chiefly maintained by the influx of new members. The scheme which Conference will be asked to approve may cost the Association in time anything up to £3,000 per annum, but it will do two things: it will maintain a regular inflow of new members to the Provident Society, guarantee almost for all time a return to the "Rest" Fund of the present high percentage, and it will give every youth a start in life on reaching his majority.

It is a great idea, and it will return benefit to N.A.L.G.O. and its members out of all proportion to the sacrifice which is made out of the General Funds of the Association. It may have its repercussions—it may in time help to avoid certain claims on the Benevolent and Orphan Fund. And we must all admit that anything which eases the strain in that direction will be invaluable. There is an increase in the amount contributed to the Benevolent Fund during the past year, but that increase does not represent what the Management Committee expected after the very interesting decision which was made at the Annual Conference, 1934.

B. and O. Fund

It will be remembered that at the Scarborough meeting serious proposals were put forward by the Benevolent and Orphan Management Committee which would regularise in some respects payments to claimants, and would also impose restrictions on the amounts to be paid generally. The Conference with no uncertain voice decided that it would have no restrictions, and the impression was given that the members would rise to the occasion by substantially increasing the income of the Fund. We expected this year to be able to show in figures exactly the terms of that decision, and we are disappointed. The sum of 2s. 6d. a year is the minimum amount which the Association asks from each member towards the Benevolent and Orphan Fund—only a little over fifty per cent. of the members pay that small amount; and yet there is no finer institution in the country. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund is just 25 years old—it was launched in July 1909, and commenced to operate as from January 1910. So far it has met every case which has been brought before the Committee reasonably and fairly—certainly without having in a single instance had to give less through want of funds than the case normally justified. The Fund is becoming known more and more, and is generally regarded as a refuge for all distressed Local Government Officers and dependents who have been left in unfortunate circumstances. The time is coming when a curtailment in the allowances will have to be made unless the income swells far beyond the present figure.

We offer no excuse for reminding the branches that through their representatives at the Scarborough Conference they said "we will have no curtailment"—and that the obvious interpretation of that decision is that the branches will find the money.

THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL AUTHORITIE

By Dr. I. G. GIBBON, Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Health*

(*Continued from page 58 of March issue of L.G.S.*)

LET us examine more closely the detailed relations between central and local authorities in a few instances by way of illustration, always remembering that the Spirit in which functions are exercised may be even more important than the functions themselves.

I have already mentioned delegated legislation. There are many provisions scattered up and down Acts of Parliament enabling Ministers to give specified powers to local authorities. Some of these powers may be given by simple Order of the Minister, some only by Order which has to be laid before Parliament, and is subject to be cancelled by a resolution of either House, for some the Order has to be confirmed by resolution of both Houses, and in still other cases the Order is provisional and has to be embodied in a Bill, which then has to be passed just like an ordinary Private Bill. It would be hopeless to expect to find any rule or principle underlying these various provisions. Parliament is full of human nature. Much depends on the date of the provision, much also on the feeling of trust or distrust uppermost at the time the particular Act was passed. More system should be introduced by the long-needed consolidation of local government law now under way. Few experienced administrators would deny that, with modern complications of local government, the provisions should be made as simple as possible, consistent with reasonable safeguards.

Sanction of Local Laws

Akin to the power of delegated legislation is the obligation placed on local authorities to obtain approval for local laws binding on citizens and carrying penalties if not observed. These in total are numerous and for the ordinary citizen they are proportionately far more important than the laws of Parliament, because usually they touch his activities much more closely. John Citizen is ignorant of, and rightly does not bother his head with, many statutes, because they deal with matters with which he never expects to have any personal concern. He is much more likely on the other hand to do something, such as build a house or alter his drains, where he has to observe local byelaws or regulations.

But why should not these matters be left to the local authorities, as indeed they were in olden days? (Incidentally leaving them wholly to the discretion of local authorities did not prove very happy.) The principal reasons for requiring confirmation are three—to see that the proposals are within the law, this even though a byelaw is not rendered legal by Ministerial confirmation; to protect the interests of minorities; in some measure to ensure that the proposals are good for the purposes for which they are intended. An impartial study of the results of central control would, I am sure, confirm its advantage, even though in this very imperfect world things are done at times which are by no means always blessed, and may not be blessed.

An extension, amounting to transformation, of the byelaw powers is that of making town and country planning schemes. It may seem astonishing that these powers were first made available only so recently as 1909. Their last extension was by the Act of 1932. The powers are so far-reaching, so closely affecting private interests, that they could scarcely be left to the unfettered discretion of local authorities. It was therefore provided in the Act of 1909 that any scheme had to be approved by the Local Government Board before it could become operative, and also be laid before Parliament. In 1919, the obligation to lay proposed schemes before Parliament was rescinded, having been found of little service. It is interesting that in 1932 the obligation was replaced, partly because of the wider powers given by the last Act, but also because we were then in a new wave of distrust of Ministerial jurisdiction.

Appeals

The foregoing jurisdictions over local authorities lead to another closely allied to them, that of deciding appeals. Much ink has been spilled in recent years over the appellate jurisdiction of government departments and they have been slated by some for usurping the powers of the courts and have been admonished by others to copy some of our continental neighbours in their system of administrative courts.

There is much misconception on the subject. I have dealt with it elsewhere and there is not room here to go into it at length. Briefly the right position as it seems to me is this. Where the law lays down a definite code or clear principle of right and wrong, then dispute should be decided by the courts. Where, on the other hand, definite lines are not laid down, possibly cannot be laid down, and decision must depend partly on policy, then decision is not rightly for the courts, which should administer law not policy, but by some Ministerial body ultimately responsible to the authority for policy, namely Parliament.

That appears to me the right line of division. A central appeal also carries other advantages, notably, because of trained ability and experience, a large percentage of agreed settlements and the building up of a considered body of decisions, the latter, when published, constituting a code for private and public interests and thus facilitating equity and reducing appeals. Nevertheless logic is not a safe guide in practice, and there is much advantage in using some convenient Court, such as Petty Sessions (with appeal to Quarter Sessions) or the County Court, even where there may be a large element of policy, especially because the chief need is for an effective check on any tendency towards arbitrary action on the part of the local authority. One difficulty in my experience in securing this simple tribunal has at times been the preference for a Government Department, on the part of private organisations as well as of local authorities, a preference the stronger, understandably, where the issues are technical, as they tend more and more to be.

Financial Control

It is a noteworthy feature of our local government that, with negligible exceptions, no statutory limit is placed on the amounts which may be spent out of rates on local services provided these services are authorised by law. This feature, by no means universal, accounts largely for the freedom of local government in this country—the freedom of the pocket.

On the contrary, practically all expenditure out of loan requires sanction. The reason for this check, as with most others in Britain, lies in experience, which shows that unlimited power to mortgage the future leads to trouble, a lesson doubly enforced by the unfortunate experiences of local authorities in some countries during the crisis of recent years. The State is also concerned to see that future resources are not too heavily burdened and that posterity is not pledged for purposes which are not so needed, either for present or future welfare, as others; a public hall before a water supply, for instance. Incidentally it is by reason of this control over loans that Government Departments are enabled to render some of their most valuable services to local authorities in advice on, for example, proposed public works.

As already indicated, the large proportion of local expenditure now met out of State funds, quite apart from percentage grants, has materially affected the relations of central and local authorities.

The Methods of Central and Local Relations

There is much that could be said of th substance of central and local relations, but is well to say something of the methods. Whe the poor law of 1834 was established, with i strong centralised authority, the country wa divided into a number of districts, with a Assistant Commissioner for each, who acte for, and was the guide, philosopher and frien of the local authorities, the Boards of Guardian on behalf of the central authority. Th system has continued throughout for the poo law, the officials now being called "Gener Inspectors." This practice of local centr officials has not generally been adopted fo other spheres of local government, but ther are local inspectors for education and distri engineers for roads, both being, it will b observed, services generously aided by pe centage grants.

The need for local representatives is, c course, in a way less now than a century ag because of improved communications, but o the other hand services have become mor numerous and extensive. Relations betwee central and local authorities and officials wer never closer than they are to-day; on the whol perhaps deputations are sometimes a little to ready to run up to Whitehall. But this has t be remembered, that a conference or a deputa tion may clear up matters which would tak reams of correspondence, and much mor satisfactorily, and, what may be even mor important, establish the personal touch whic greases the wheels of administration.

Central Government's Purpose

Problems of government tend to demand th specialist more and more. Local authoritie and their officials will usually welcome th central representative with experience an mellow advice, but they may excusably be little impatient of general exhortation. Th purpose of the central department is to b helpful, and appropriate officials can specialise and acquire an abundance of knowledge usuall beyond the means of any one local authorit or official. Both pulling together can make a admirable team.

Most of the business is necessarily conducte by correspondence, but there is no hesitatio in arranging for a conference, at the centre or i the locality as the case may require, whereve this will save time and trouble. It is on occasion the only way satisfactorily to thrash out a com plicated and difficult issue.

Numerous public inquiries have to be held in many cases under statute. Usually they ar held where the proposal is so important that i is right that organisations or private person should have an opportunity of having their sa before decision, or where the interests of othe parties, private or public, are so closely affecte that similar opportunity should be afforded Public inquiries are now more restricted t these matters than formerly, but are not les numerous because of the growth of publi business. A public inquiry is often a goo safety valve; promoters and opponents both fe happier when they have had full opportunit of stating their case, and that in public, and th importance of this fact for a democratic com munity is not always appreciated.

A large proportion of the inquiries are hel by engineering inspectors, because engineerin issues arise of one kind or other; some oth inquiries are also held by these inspectors, no only because knowledge of engineering may b useful, but also because of wide experience i the holding of the inquiries and of questions o local government. It is an important fact that inspectors who hold inquiries have th wealth of departmental knowledge behind them

(*Continued on page 109 col. 1*)

* An address delivered to the Manchester and District Area Education Committee of N.A.L.G.O. and the Manchester Regional Branch of the Institute of Public Administration.

National Association of Local Government Officers

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Cheltenham Spa

WHITSUNTIDE, 1935

NOTE: **The proceedings will commence at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, June 8, 1935, and on Monday, June 10, 1935. The Conference will adjourn for luncheon at 12.30 p.m. and reassemble at 2.30 p.m. on each day, unless otherwise determined. The Session on Saturday morning will be open to all local government officers and the public.**

AGENDA

1. OFFICIAL WELCOME BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF CHELTENHAM, COUNCILLOR E. L. WARD, AND MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION.

2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE HELD ON MAY 19 AND 21, 1934.

3. BENEVOLENT AND ORPHAN FUND.

(*a*) The Mayoress of Cheltenham, Mrs. Ward, will receive the Purses of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

(*b*) The Mayoress of Cheltenham, Mrs. Ward, will present the "Sir Homewood Crawford" Shield, the "Sir Charles Wakefield" (Lord Wakefield) Shield and the "Bridlington" Cup.

(*c*) Honorary Treasurer's Financial Statement.

(*d*) Management Committee's Report and Notices of Motion and amendments relative thereto.

Notice of Motion given by the Hampshire County Officers' Branch.

That the minimum subscription to the B. and O. Fund should be on a scale graduated according to the present scale for the payments of subscriptions, as follows :—

Salary not exceeding	**£52 p.a.**	**1d. p.m'th or 1/- p.a.**
„ exceeding	**£52 but not exceeding**	**£120 p.a. 1½d. p.m'th or 1/6 p.a.**
„ „	**£120 „ „ „**	**£260 p.a. 2½d. p.m'th or 2/6 p.a.**
„ „	**£260 „ „ „**	**£350 p.a. 3d. p.m'th or 3/- p.a.**
„ „	**£350 „ „ „**	**£450 p.a. 4d. p.m'th or 4/- p.a.**
„ „	**£450 p.a.**	**5d. p.m'th or 5/- p.a.**

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

That the rules and constitution of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund be amended as follows:—
Delete Rule 30 (*b*) and substitute the following therefor:—

(*b*) average £5 per member of the branch, provided that where in any year there is a decrease of five per cent. or more in the branch membership by reason of which the average amount of the contributions to the fund exceeds £5 per member, the branch shall be disqualified from receiving a Diploma except in special cases as may be determined by the Management Committee.

Note.—Rule 30 (*b*) at present reads as follows :—
"(*b*) average £5 per member of the Association."

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council

That the rules and constitution of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund be amended as follows:—

(1) Definitions. Rule 2.
At the end of Line 17, insert "'Trustees' means the Trustees for the time being of the Fund."

The following is the effect of the amendment, the addition being in **black**:—

Proposed Amended Rule.—In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires:—

"Annual Conference" means the Annual Conference of the Association, and shall include any special Conference that may be held.
"Association" means the National Association of Local Government Officers.
"Branch" means a Branch of the Association.
"District Committee" means a District Committee of the Association.
"Regional Committee" means a Committee constituted in accordance with Rule 18.
"Fund" means the Benevolent and Orphan Fund of the Association.
"Council" means the National Executive Council of the Association.
"Management Committee" means the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Management Committee appointed by the Council in accordance with Rule 11.
"Trustees" means the Trustees for the time being of the Fund.
"Member" means a person who contributes to the Fund according to the provisions of Rules 5a and 7.
"Honorary Member" means any person other than a member of the Association or officer or servant thereof qualifying in accordance with Rule 5b; and
"Secretary of the Fund" means the person holding the position of General Secretary of the Association.

(2) Rules of the Association. Rule 34.
Delete Rule 34 and substitute the following therefor:—

The Rules and Constitution of the Association as regards the vesting of property, the investment of monies, the holding of land, the keeping of accounts, the indemnification of members of the Council and Officers of the Association, and in all other respects whatsoever, so far as may be applicable, shall apply to the Trustees, the Management Committee and the Fund, as if expressly incorporated therein, and the procedure and work of the Management Committee shall be governed by the Regulations affecting other Committees of the Council.

Rule 34 at present reads as follows:—

The Rules and Constitution of the Association as regards the investment of monies and the keeping of accounts, and in all other respects, so far as may be applicable shall apply to the Management Committee,

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA (Contd.)

and the Fund and the procedure and work of the Management Committee shall be governed by the Regulations affecting other Committees of the Council.

(3) **Security for Loans, etc.**

Insert the following new Rule 35:—

Security for Loans, etc.

35. The Trustees may accept as consideration for any loan, allowance or annuity to be paid, granted or made by the Management Committee, such security as the Management Committee may in their discretion direct.

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

That the rules and constitution of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund be amended as follows:—

Delete Rule 3 and substitute the following therefor:—

"The objects of the Fund shall be to afford, when necessary, assistance to the following classes of persons:—

(1) members;
(2) bona fide dependents of members;
(3) bona fide dependents of deceased members;
(4) members of the Association;
(5) bona fide dependents of members of the Association;
(6) bona fide dependents of deceased members of the Association; and
(7) past members of the Fund or the Association who have left the local government service on account of ill-health or similar circumstances and who are not eligible for membership or retired membership of the Association, but who at the date of leaving the local government service were members of the Association, and bona fide dependents of such past members.

Such assistance shall be given by granting:—

(*a*) relief in cases of distress, illness, accident or sudden emergency;
(*b*) temporary loans;
(*c*) allowances or annuities;
(*d*) permits for admission to sanatoria, convalescent homes or other institutions;
(*e*) facilities for consulting specialists at reduced rates.

Provided that in those cases coming within classes (4) to (7) both inclusive above no assistance shall be rendered until the recommendations in connection with such cases have been approved by the Management Committee and the Council.

Rule 3 at present reads as follows:—

3. The objects of the Fund shall be to afford, when necessary, assistance to members and their dependents, and/or the dependents of deceased members of the Fund or of the Association. Such assistance shall be given by granting:—
   (*a*) relief in cases of distress, illness, accident or sudden emergency;
   (*b*) temporary loans;
   (*c*) allowances or annuities;
   (*d*) permits for admission to sanatoria, convalescent homes or other institutions;
   (*e*) facilities for consulting specialists at reduced rates. In cases submitted on behalf of members of the Association or their dependents who were not members of the Fund, no grants shall be made until the recommendations in connection with such cases have been approved by the Management Committee and the Council.

(*e*) Notices of motion and amendments thereto, other than alterations and amendments of rules and except as provided by sub-section (*d*) of this section.

Notice of Motion given by the East Ham Branch.

That having regard to the pressing need for increasing the income of the B. and O. Fund this Conference decides that in future the whole of the income of the Fund shall be held available for relief.

(*f*) Amendments and alterations of rules, except as provided by sub-section (*d*) of this section.

4. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

5. DECLARATION OF RESULT OF ELECTION OF COUNCIL AND HONORARY OFFICERS.

6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR THE YEAR 1935.

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

That Messrs. Jackson, Pixley and Co., Chartered Accountants, of 58, Coleman Street, London, E.C.2 be appointed the Association's auditors for the year 1935, and that a fee of £367 10s. (three hundred and sixty-seven pounds ten shillings) be paid to them for such services.

7. PAPERS AND DEBATES ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE SERVICE, AND ADDRESSES.

8. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS.

9. HONORARY TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT ETC.

10. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL AND NOTICES OF MOTION AND AMENDMENTS RELATIVE THERETO.

(*a*) Gresford Colliery Disaster Relief Fund.

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

That Rule 2 of the rules and constitution of the Association be amended by the insertion of the following new object after object (n):—

RULE 2—OBJECTS.

(*a*) To do all such things as may from time to time be considered advisable to foster, safeguard, maintain, improve the status or influence of the Association, to promote the advancement of the Association or its district committees or its branches or any of them by contributions to public charities, voluntary organisations, or other similar bodies.

(*b*) Superannuation.

Notice of Motion given by the South Wales and Monmouthshire District Committee and the Gwent Branch.

That this Conference re-affirms the decision arrived at by the 1934 Conference, and urges His Majesty's Government to put into operation, without further delay, a measure of compulsory Superannuation for the Local Government Service.

(*c*) Venue of Annual Conference.

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

That the rules and constitution of the Association be amended as follows:—

RULE 21—CONFERENCES.

(i) Delete all words from the word "year" in the third line of the rule to the word "Council" in the fifth line of the rule.

(ii) At the end of the rule insert the following new section (*c*):—

(*c*) The venue of a Conference shall be decided by the branches, each of which shall receive a number of voting papers equal to the number of representatives which the branch is entitled to elect in accordance with the provisions of Rule 24 (*b*). For the purposes of the election voting papers shall be issued by the General Secretary to the branches not later than 28 days prior to the commencement of the Annual Conference. To be valid a voting paper must be signed by the Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the branch and be received by the General Secretary not later than 5 o'clock p.m. 14 days prior to the commencement of the Annual Conference. Provided that, in the event of a decision not being arrived at by the branches, the next succeeding annual conference shall be held at such place as may be decided by the Council.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA (Contd.)

RULE 28 (*b*)—AGENDA.

(iii) Insert the words "Declaration of" before the word "venue" in item 13

Note:—The effect of the proposed amendments is as follows, the additions being in **black,** and the deletions in *italics*.

21 (*a*)—CONFERENCES.

(*a*) The general policy of the Association shall be directed by a Conference; and an Annual Conference shall commence on the Saturday preceding Whitsun Day in each year *at such place as may be decided by the preceding Annual Conference, or in the event of such a Conference having been unable to decide this question, at such place as may be decided by the Council*, or a Special Conference may be convened in accordance with Rule 22.

(*c*) The venue of a Conference shall be decided by the branches, each of which shall receive a number of voting papers equal to the number of representatives which the branch is entitled to elect in accordance with the provisions of Rule 24 (*b*). For the purposes of the election voting papers shall be issued by the General Secretary to the branches not later than 28 days prior to the commencement of the Annual Conference. To be valid a voting paper must be signed by the Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the branch, and be received by the General Secretary not later than 5 o'clock p.m. 14 days prior to the commencement of the Annual Conference. Provided that, in the event of a decision not being arrived at by the branches, the next succeeding annual conference shall be held at such place as may be decided by the Council.

28 (*b*)—AGENDA.

13. Declaration of venue of next Conference.

(*d*) Election of Honorary Officers.

Note:—**See paragraph 16 of the Annual Report.**

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

That Rule 19 of the rules and constitution of the Association be amended as follows:—

RULE 19 (*b*).

(i) Delete the words "and all Honorary Officers shall be elected on such nominations by the Annual Conference" from lines 2 and 3 of the rule.

(ii) Insert the following new section (*c*):—
"All Honorary Officers shall be elected by the branches, each of which shall receive a number of voting papers equal to the number of representatives which the Branch is entitled to elect in accordance with the provisions of Rule 24 (*b*).

For the purposes of the election voting papers shall be issued by the General Secretary to the branches not later than 28 days prior to the commencement of the Annual Conference. To be valid a voting paper must be signed by the Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the branch, and be received by the General Secretary not later than 5 o'clock p.m. 14 days prior to the commencement of the Annual Conference."

(iii) Renumber sections (*c*) and (*d*) of the rule as sections (*d*) and (*e*) respectively.

Note:—The effect of the proposed amendments is as follows, the additions being in **black**, and the deletions in *italics*.

19—HONORARY OFFICERS.

(*b*) Nominations for the Honorary Officers of the Association may only be submitted by the Council and/or a District Committee *and all Honorary Officers shall be elected on such nominations by the Annual Conference*. Provided that nominations made by District Committees must be received by the General Secretary not later than 5 o'clock p.m. on the 1st day of March, and that nominations must be made by the Council not later than March 31.

(*c*) All Honorary Officers shall be elected by the Branches, each of which shall receive a number of voting papers equal to the number of representatives which the branch is entitled to elect in accordance with the provisions of Rule 24 (*b*). For the purposes of the election voting papers shall be issued by the General Secretary to the branches not later than 28 days prior to the commencement of the Annual Conference. To be valid a voting paper must be signed by the Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the branch, and be received by the General Secretary not later than 5 o'clock p.m. 14 days prior to the commencement of the Annual Conference.

(*e*) Complete System of Whitley Councils.

Notice of Motion given by the Cambridgeshire Branch.

That this Conference deplores the lack of progress made in the establishment of a complete system of Whitley Councils for Local Government Officers and requests the National Executive Council to take immediate steps to call conferences of representatives of Local Authorities and Branches at suitable centres, with a view to the establishment of Provincial Councils for the areas not covered by existing Councils.

(*f*) Holiday Centres.

Notice of Motion given by the Scottish District Committee.

That it be an instruction to the National Executive Council to establish in Scotland a Guest House or Home for Convalescent or Holidays Purposes.

11. COMPENSATION FOR INJURY OR DEATH.

Notice of Motion given by the Doncaster Branch.

That this Conference instructs the National Executive Council to consider the position of Local Government Officers—outside the scope of the Workmen's Compensation Acts—in the event of their sustaining injury, or death in the performance of their duties, with a view to the necessary steps being taken to secure protection for such officers and their dependents.

12. NALGO APPROVED SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Notice of Motion given by the Yorkshire District Committee and the Leeds Branch.

That in the opinion of this Conference the Annual Meeting of the Approved Society should be held at the time and place of Conference.

13. NALGO SUPPLIES, LIMITED.

Notice of Motion given by the South-Eastern District Committee

That the South-Eastern District Committee calls attention of Conference to the proposed formation of the N.E.C. of Nalgo Supplies, Ltd., and recommends that the N.E.C. be instructed to take no further action in the matter until full details of such proposal are submitted to Conference for approval.

14. RULE 9—SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Notice of Motion given by the Glasgow Branch.

That the Annual Subscription be at the rate of 5/- per annum for all Juniors not over twenty-one years of age.

15. VENUE OF NEXT CONFERENCE.

The following invitations have been received :—

(*a*) Margate Borough Council
(*b*) Ayrshire Branch
(*c*) Largs Burgh Council
(*d*) Aberdeen Town Council
(*e*) Clacton Urban District Council.

16. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS.

"THE MUNICIPAL YEAR BOOK"

The *Municipal Year Book* (The Municipal Journal, Ltd.; 30s.) is unique among works of reference. Although its previous editions have achieved an almost ideal arrangement of the voluminous subjects which it includes, it is not content to "rest on its oars," but strives continuously to introduce further innovations and improvements. Thus, the 1933 edition contained 37 separate sections; in 1934, that number was increased to 45; and the present edition sees a further increase to 48.

As is pointed out by Mr. James Forbes, the editor of the Year Book, who is once more to be congratulated on the admirable way in which he has performed his difficult task, the growth of the Year Book is indicative of the growth of the civic services themselves, and the volume, by force of circumstances, has departed from its original purpose, which was to deal with municipal administration, and now covers every field of local government activity.

In a short review, it is impossible to deal exhaustively with the various sections of the Year Book, and it may appear invidious in a work so uniformly excellent to pick out particular sections for special praise. A few alterations and innovations may, however, be mentioned. The section dealing with national authorities has been considerably extended, and while, in previous volumes, the functions of certain Government Departments were set out under different sections, they are now all brought within the ambit of Section I—"His Majesty's Government."

Again, in certain sections dealing with various classes of local authorities it has been the practice in earlier editions to give a *resume* of the powers, duties and functions of the authorities. It is obviously difficult to condense within practicable dimensions an account of those ever-increasing functions, and accordingly there have been substituted this year for that summary of functions, cross-references to legislation and leading cases affecting local government during the year, details of which are to be found in other parts of the volume.

Mr. Clement Danes has contributed this year a review of Local Government in 1934, and has admirably summarised the outstanding events of that year affecting Local Government administration.

The preface to the whole volume has again been written by Sir E. Hilton Young, the Minister of Health, and Mr. Leslie Hore-Belisha, Minister of Transport, has written a foreword to the Roads and Transport Section. This section alone comprises 75 pages, and is noted for its copious statistics.

C. K. W.

The Hammersmith Branch held a ball and cabaret at the Palais de Dance, Hammersmith, on Tuesday, February 26. The function received excellent support from other branches, and there was an attendance of approximately 1,600. Twenty prizes were given, and the function was successful financially as well as socially. As a result it has been possible to hand over the sum of £120 to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

YOU AND US

"The Scot keeps the Sabbath and everything else he can get.

"The Irishman does not know what he wants and is ready to die for it.

"The Welshman prays on his knees and on his neighbours.

"The Englishman is a self-made man and worships his creator."—Dr. Harold Moody, the coloured preacher, at Bridgwater, Somerset.

N.A.L.G.O. DINNER AT STATIONERS' HALL

ON March 1, Dr. A. Wotherspoon, the President, and members of the National Executive Council of the National Association of Local Government Officers entertained a distinguished company of guests to dinner in the historic Hall of the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers, City of London. Following the loyal toast and the toasts of the Sovereigns and Heads of the countries represented at the Court of St. James's, the Fleet Street Choir, conducted by Mr. T. B. Lawrence, gave some very delightful renderings of familiar songs. The Danish Ambassador replied to the President's toast; Mr. Herbert Arthur Cox, Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers, spoke on the history and architecture of the ancient Hall; and Sir Arthur Robinson, Secretary to the Ministry of Health, and Sir Henry Pelham, Secretary to the Board of Education, responded to the toast of "The Silent Services." Mr. Isaac Foot, M.P., proposed the toast of the Chairman, Dr. Wotherspoon.

Among others present were:

Mr. E. W. B. Abbott, ex-Director of Education, Maidstone, and ex-Vice-President, N.A.L.G.O.; Mrs. M. Adams, Talks Department, British Broadcasting Corporation; Sir Percy Alden, Chairman, British Institute of Social Service; Lord Apsley, M.P.; Mr. W. W. Armitage, Vice-Chairman, National Executive Council N.A.L.G.O.; Sir Henry N. Bunbury, K.C.B., C.B., Comptroller and Accountant-General, Post Office; Mr. G. W. Coster, M.B.E., Vice-President, N.A.L.G.O.; G. S. W. Epps, C.B., C.B.E., Deputy Go ment Actuary; Mr. H. W. S. Francis, O. Director, Housing and Town Planning, Mi of Health; Mr. L. Hill, General Secre N.A.L.G.O.; Mr. P. Hjelt, Counsellor o Finnish Legation in London.

Sir Cyril W. Hurcomb, K.B.E., C.B.E., Secretary, Ministry of Trans Sir Henry Jackson, M.P.; Sir William Jen M.P.; Sir Arthur P. Johnson, J.P., ex-T Clerk, Hampstead, and ex-Presi N.A.L.G.O.; Mr. A. Laker, Chairman Managing Director, *Municipal Journal*; C. H. Leach, *Public Assistance Journal*; A. J. Lees, C.B.E., Secretary of the U District Councils Association; Mr. F. Leggett, C.B., Principal Assistant Secre Ministry of Labour; Mr. J. J. McIr Secretary of the Rural District Cou Association; Mr. L. A. de L. Mere C.M.G., O.B.E., General Manager, Trave Industrial Development Association of G Britain and Ireland; Sir Harry G. Pritch Secretary, Association of Municipal Cor tions; Dr. W. A. Robson, B.Sc. (Econ.), P LL.M., Lecturer, London School of Econor Mr. W. A. Ross, J.P., Assistant Secre Ministry of Health; Alderman E. G. Rov son, J.P., Sheffield City Council; Mr. W. Smith, General Manager, *The Times*; M Eric Staddon, Chairman, Urban Di Councils Association; Mr. F. J. W Chairman, National Executive Co N.A.L.G.O.

As the Hammersmith Ball and Cabaret Caricaturist saw Mr. S. Whitehead, President of the Branch

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

(*Continued from page 104*)

The report of an inspector is usually confidential and his recommendations are advisory. Final decision rests with the minister. Recommendations are by no means accepted as a matter of course. They are carefully examined in the department, on the technical and the administrative side, final responsibility resting with the latter, and in important cases of difference consultations are held, where the inspector may convince or be convinced. The care taken in deciding cases would astound many a sceptic; the fault, if fault there be, tends rather towards too much, not too little, care. And there is always the possibility of questions of discussion in Parliament to check want of care, a sword which may fall at any time, or at any rate a bodger that may prick.

Surveys

In the poor law, it has always been the practice at times to carry out a survey of the work of an authority, in particular of some branch of work. It has not been the practice to do this comprehensively in other sections of local government, except some of those aided by percentage grants. In the old days, reports used to be made by medical officers of the Local Government Board usually on some district whose authority had failed in some essential service. These reports were learned and comprehensive, and usually started with the rocks on which the district stood and went on to other matters of less timeless stability but of more immediate importance, and action was then taken in the department on the report.

The Local Government Act of 1929, with its large block grant towards local expenditure and the power to withhold the grant in whole or in part on failure in any public health service, revived the practice of surveys, in a more helpful form. Each local government area is taken in turn; its public health services are examined by an official or officials of the Ministry of Health and report made on them; the Ministry then communicates with the local authority drawing attention to matters and making suggestions. In this way an efficiency survey of health services is obtained, something never done before on a comprehensive scale.

These are but a few of the more important matters of method in the relations between central and local authorities. One other of signal importance already mentioned must be recalled, the close and frequent consultation which goes on between government departments and the several associations of local authorities on matters of common interest, a practice which materially helps the smooth and efficient operation of local government. As I have already said, the spirit which animates the relations is that of partnership, and it is in that spirit that central and local, working together, can confidently look forward to the solution of the many difficult problems which lie before them.

THE JANUARY PASS LIST AT THE N.A.L.G.O. EXAMINATIONS.

The following is the list of candidates who passed the Association's Examinations held in January, 1935:

Candidate's No.	*Name*	*Department*	*Authority*
	PRELIMINARY GRADE		
3	Allen, A. L.	Clerk's	Derby C.B.C.
4	Atkinson, E. A.	Public Health	Walton & Weybridge U.D.C.
9	Byng, J. P.	Surveyor's	Walmer U.D.C.
12	Cole, E. J.	Not a Local Government Officer.	
14	Collier, N. F.	Public Health	Chepping Wycombe B.C.
16	Crosbie, M. A.	Not a Local Government Officer.	
20	Donald, A.	Public Health	St. Helens C.B.C.
21	Dunican, P. T.	Libraries	Battersea M.B.C.
23	Evans, R. G.	Public Health	Smethwick C.B.C.
33	Hallsworth, H. O.	Public Health	Wombell U.D.C.
34	Harris, S.	Public Health	Northamptonshire C.C.
37	Herring, A.	Public Health	Willesden B.C.
38	Howard, E. C.	Accountant's	Bedfordshire C.C.
39	Humphries, R. C.	Treasurer's	Wednesbury B.C.
49	Lister, C. K.	Clerk's	Ilford B.C.
50	Lowis, R. J.	Public Health	Grimsby R.D.C.
52	Mathews, W. M.	Public Health	Middlesbrough C.B.C.
60	Pridmore, H. W.	Public Health	South Kesteven R.D.C.
64	Rodgers, F. N.	Clerk's	Runcorn R.D.C.
65	Rogers, A.	Public Health	Eccles B.C.
71	Smith, A. W.	Electricity	Shoreditch M.B.C.
81	Wiseman, H.	Public Health	York C.B.C.
	INTERMEDIATE GRADE		
102	Brown, A. H.	Engineer's	Willesden B.C.
105	Duguid, W.	Assessor's	Glasgow Corporation.
107	Farquhar, H.	Registration of Births	Glasgow Corporation.
108	Holmes, L. J.	Education	Middlesbrough C.B.C.
110	Kerley, G. K. J.	Public Health	Willesden B.C.
115	May, V. G. E.	Rating	Romsey B.C.
116	Pearson, T. E.	Education	Middlesbrough C.B.C.
119	Richardson, R. C.	Clerk's	Brighton C.B.C.
121	Rush, J.	Clerk's	Middlesbrough C.B.C.
123	Sherlock, T.	Education	Preston C.B.C.
125	Stephenson, T. V.	Education	Middlesbrough C.B.C.
126	Wain, R. N.	Education	Middlesbrough C.B.C.
127	Walters, I. W.	Finance	Newport (Mon.) C.B.C.
129	Willcox, E. R.	Electricity	Willesden B.C.
130	Wilson, E. T. U.	Treasurer's	Barking B.C.
	FINAL GRADE		
152	Furness, F.	Clerk's	Wallasey C.B.C.
153	Galliford, L. B.	Clerk's	Bideford B.C.
154	Hudson, J.	Transport	Blackburn C.B.C.
155	Jobling, E.	Clerk's	West Hartlepool C.B.C. [Board.
157	Silcock, H.	Engineer's	Southport & District Water
158	Slocombe, L. J.	Clerk's	Wallasey C.B.C.
159	Syrett, J. S.	Clerk's	Southgate B.C.
160	Wheway, H. G.	Clerk's	Burton-upon-Trent C.B.C.
161	Worledge, J. N.	Clerk's	Norfolk C.C.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Grade	*Passed*	*Referred in certain subjects*	*Failed*	*Total*
Preliminary	22	32	28	82
Intermediate	15	11	5	31
Final	9	—	1	10

PERCENTAGES OF CANDIDATES WHO PASSED THE EXAMINATIONS

Grade	*Percentage*
Preliminary	27%
Intermediate	48%
Final	90%

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AT RANDOM: COMMENTARY ON CURRENT TOPIC

By HYPERION

Colds and Their Cure (if any

I HAVE been grappling for the past ten days with a cold of a particularly foul, noxious and virulent kind. It has made me feel, to use the language of the Housing Acts, thoroughly "damp and dilapidated,"or, if you prefer the more classic idiom of Mr. Mantilini, "a deucid, damp, moist, unpleasant body." You will understand, therefore, and make allowances if the "At Random" column should lack this month that indefinable charm, that spirit of gay *insouciance*, that ebullient *joie de vivre*, that *je ne sais quoi espi glerie*——

[*Editor*: "*Here, I say, draw it mild!*"

Myself: "*What d'you mean, draw it mild?*"

Editor: "*I mean, by the way you're going on, one would think you were Mark Twain, Stephen Leacock, and A. P. Herbert rolled into one, and why all this French, anyway?*"

Myself: "*Oh, well . . .*"]

—if the "At Random" column this month seems even more than usually dreary——

[*Editor*: "*That's much better.*"

Myself: "*Have it your own way.*"]

Talking about colds, why can't medical science do more research on the subject and find a cure for them? It is not generally realised that colds alone probably cost this country approximately forty million pounds in twelve months in medicines, inefficiency, and loss of time.

The medical adviser to a Sunday paper wrote recently:

"This is the season for common colds, and you need only look in the tramcar, in the bus, in the office and workshops to see what a toll it takes of us all.

"But there is no specific cure for this, as I am pointing out to Catarrh (Oldham). Colds arise from a variety of germs acting upon a variable condition of the mucous membrane and of the constituents of the body, so that whilst one person exposed to conditions giving rise to a cold is affected, another one under precisely the same conditions is unaffected. Even the infectivity is not constant."

Which appears to me to be poor comfort for Catarrh (Oldham)!

Personally, I try to follow the advice of the egregious B.B. in "The Doctor's Dilemma," and to stimulate the phagocytes by absorbing large quantities of Bemax, Bovril, Bisto and other foods rich in Vitamin B. Also, when I get a cold, my bathroom gradually assumes the appearance of a chemist's shop.

There accumulate on the shelves, as if by magic, medicines, compounded of menthol, horehound, ipecacuanha, black currant, honey and liquorice, poppy, mandragora, and all the drowsy spirits of the East—it really seems almost worth while being ill for!

"Excess of Meat—"

Or sometimes I try dieting and subsisting for a whole day or two days on orange juice or grape fruit. I remember a saying in Ecclesiastes: "Excess of meat breedeth sickness and gluttony causeth choleric diseases; by surfeiting many perish, but he that dieteth himself prolongeth his life"; or that equally pungent dictum of old Thomas Burton: "To preserve their honour and health and to avoid thereafter all those inflations, torments, obstructions, crudities and diseases that come by a full diet, the best way is to feed sparingly of one or two dishes at most, to choose one of many and to feed on that alone, as Crato advised his patient."

By the way, have you ever heard that the proverbial saying "Feed a cold, starve a fever" does not mean that you should eat a lot when you have a cold and fast when you have a fever, but that *if* you feed a cold, you will have a fever to starve.

In the unlikely event of my ever winning the Calcutta Sweep, I should endow an Institute of Research into the Cause and Cure of the Common Cold (and I call that a very fine example of apt alliteration's artful aid!).

Another "Schoolboy Howler"

Henry V asked Catherine for a kiss, but she said, "In France it is not right for a gentleman to kiss a lady before they are married." But in England it is just the other way round, so he did.

Noises

In a competition organised by William Hickey, of the *Daily Express*, the following won the first prize:—

The Four Best Noises: (1) Droning of bees; (2) Clang of a village smithy; (3) Voice of a fog-bound liner; (4) Hoot of an owl.

The Four Worst Noises: (1) Irrevocable ticks of a clock; (2) Tap of a blind man's walking stick; (3) Clink of a glass against a medicine bottle; (4) Thud of a shilling in the gas-meter.

Consolation for Hydrophobia

A crowd had gathered around the poor man who had been bitten by the mad dog. A doctor was administering first aid.

Presently the patient sat up. "Doctor," he said in a hoarse whisper, "give me a piece of paper."

The doctor placed a kindly hand on the man's shoulder.

"Tut, tut, my good fellow!" he said. "You're all right. You needn't worry about making your will so soon."

"I don't want to make a will," said the victim, with a slight smile. "I want to make a list of the people I'm going to bite."—*Clown* (*U.S.A.*).

His Hobby

In an interview given by Mr. Herbert Morrison to Mr. George Edinger, which appeared in a recent number of *Everyman*, the leader of the London County Council stated that his work at County Hall and at the Headquarters of the London Labour Party left him little time for recreation. Asked if he had any hobbies or recreations, he thought profoundly for a few moments, and then said, "Well, I sometimes take the dog for a walk!"

Our Wonderful World of To-morrow

I have always had a distinct predilection for reading books about the future. I remember, in the pre-wireless age, reading Edward Bellamy's "Looking Backward" and getting excited about several amenities described in it which then seemed utterly fantastic but which to-day are regarded as commonplace.

Within the last few years there has been no lack of books about the future—H. G. Wells' "The Shape of Things to Come"; Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World"; the last three parts of Shaw's "Back to Methuselah"; a book by Sir Philip Gibbs, the name of which I have forgotten; and the whole of that admirable "To-day and To-morrow" series published by Kegan Paul.

The latest and, in some respects, the most interesting of this type of book is "Our Wonderful World of To-morrow," by Professor A. M. Low, which has recently been published by Ward, Lock & Co. for 8s. 6d. Professor Low possesses that rare gift—particularly rare in a scientist—of being able to express himself in a style easily understandable by the man in the street. His style is popular, and his ideas, which cover an enormous field, ranging from interplanetary travel and sources of power in the future to clothes and food, radio and television and cities of the future, are stimulating and provocative.

I confess that I personally find a number of Professor Low's prophecies definitely disconcerting: for example, the picture of the toothless, hairless creatures who, he predicts will be the men and women of the future. I think he has a "complex" about the perfection of the brain and the terrible waste of time "spent on physical exercise"; in short, in my opinion, his visions of machinery are much more likely of achievement than are his ideas in connection with biology.

All the same, his book makes most fascinating reading and while I cannot subscribe to his thesis that the future is *all* that matters to us in work, play, happiness and life, whether we recognise it or not, it is a subject to which we do not, at present, give sufficient thought.

As he well says: "Our present understanding of the world compares unfavourably with that of a worm's knowledge of a modern religious ceremony."

Here are a few other excerpts taken more or less at random from Professor Low's book:

"*Instead of consulting the schoolmaster about the most suitable profession for his son, a father will telephone the family doctor, who will advise a visit to Sir Somebody Somebody* (*BXT*101) *the medico-engineering specialist. Having determined that the boy's brain is of the required capacity, the specialist will perform a simple and painless operation which will induce an intense desire to be an engineer and give him the special qualities necessary for success in this profession.*"

* * *

"*Wearing the same suit on two consecutive days, without sterilisation, will be considered worse than sitting down to table without washing the hands.*"

* * *

"*For many years women's clothes have been worn primarily to attract the opposite sex and to conceal the fact that women have too short legs and to add seeming dignity to a ridiculous figure.*"

* * *

"*When light and power are broadcast to all houses and factories by wireless, switches will become a thing of the past. Light-sensitive cells will be installed in every room, and as soon as the illumination decreases to a certain point—the exact moment when artificial light becomes necessary will be decided by a committee of expert opticians—the receiver will be put into action and the lamps lighted.*"

* * *

"*In the far future, the whole world will probably be one vast grid, with power being 'manufactured' in remote parts and distributed to the centres of industry. Sun-power will be gathered in the great tropical deserts of the Sahara, water-power in mountain regions and tide-power where the wave is highest. It may even be that the Polar regions will supply all we require, and, paradoxically enough, heat houses in England.*"

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Extract from Town Planning Speech

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* * *

Which reminds me of the old distinction between the economist and the politician:—

"An economist is a man who knows more and more about less and less till he ends by knowing everything about nothing, and a politician is a man who knows less and less about more and more till he ends by knowing nothing about everything."

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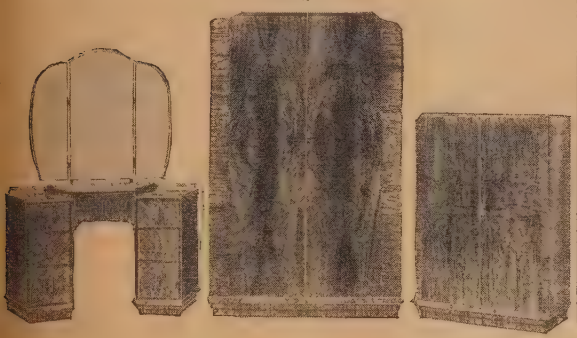

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The B. & O. Fund is not receiving the support of every member of N.A.L.G.O. The membership of the Association at October 31 last was 78,665, and if each member had paid his or her 2s. 6d. to the B. & O. Fund the total amount of subscriptions for the past year would have been £9,833 2s. 6d.

But since subscriptions amounted to only £6,668 18s., it is obvious that some have not paid. Are you one? If you are, perhaps you do not know what a great work the B. & O. Fund does. Here is what has happened during the past year :—

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		£10,670 10 5

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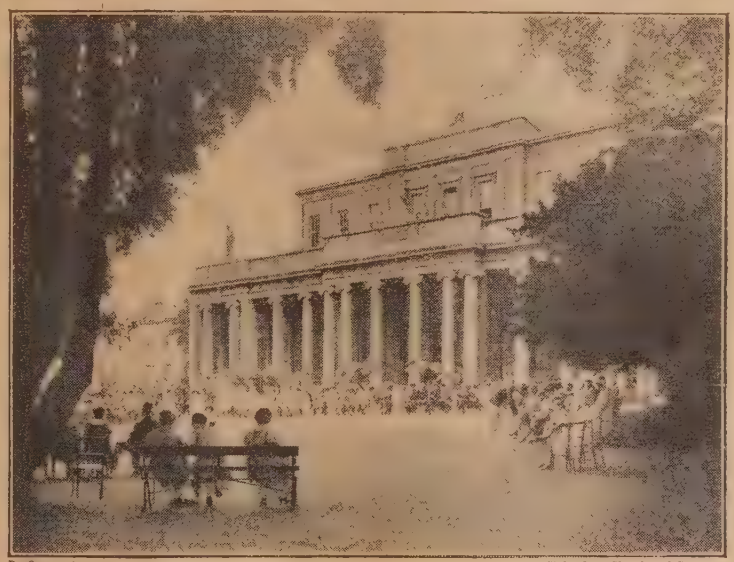
O, CHELTENHAM SPA

BY A CORRESPONDENT

IN Japan they have a delightfully simple way of giving importance to a word. Cold water is merely water, but when that water has been made hot any reference to it must be preceded by the honorific O. Hence, having cultivated more than a nodding acquaintance with the other celebrated inland health resorts and holiday towns of Britain, no title for this article on the venue of the N.A.L.G.O. Conference in June, 1935, seems more appropriate than that which heads it, for Cheltenham Spa has the reputation of being the most beautiful inland resort in Britain.

The town reclines beneath a canopy of tender green in a vast natural park about the lower slopes of the half-encircling Cotswolds, near the apex of the broad estuary of the Severn and approximately at the centre of England and Wales. The famous Cheltenham Flyer links it with Paddington in just over two hours, while lines of the L.M.S. bring holiday-makers and health seekers hither from Birmingham and the North and from Bristol and the West; moreover, a yearly arrival and departure list of 1,000,000 passengers travelling by Associated Motorways have established Cheltenham Spa as the Charing Cross of the King's Highway.

The principal local "industry" is that of making people well and happy; to this end everything in Cheltenham Spa contributes—from the sylvan canopy over the town to the celebrated waters beneath it. Speaking of the waters, these are prominent in four distinct groups, and while some contain a higher percentage of the sulphates of magnesium and sodium than those of any other British spa, the springs at Pittville yield the only natural alkaline water in the kingdom. For over two hundred years this remarkable mineral wealth has been successfully applied to the alleviation of human suffering, but at no previous period of its long and fashionable career has Cheltenham Spa provided such elaborate scientific means of combating rheumatism, gastro-intestinal and cardio-vascular disorders; two of its precious natural aids to health and longevity are bottled respectively by the United Chemists Association, Ltd., and Apollinaris, and sold everywhere.



(By Courtesy) (Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce)

A Public Reception at Pittville Spa and Pump Room

Never Dull at Cheltenham

But while the first duty of a spa is to supply health, Cheltenham has never lost sight of the fact that rational entertainment on a lavish scale is an essential part of every cure. It is never dull at Cheltenham; apart from crowds of jolly visitors in spring, summer, autumn and winter, there are over 50,000 permanent local residents (not to mention as many county folk and country folk to whom Cheltenham Spa is the pivot of fashion and recreation) for whom first-class entertainment is a necessity all the year round. Cheltenham enjoys wide fame as the Ascot of winter racing; three golf clubs flourish on its outskirts; over one hundred public tennis courts are provided; it shares with Gloucester a fine greyhound racing track; it possesses large and well-appointed closed and open-air baths for mixed bathing, with up-to-date facilities for sun-bathing; and in the beautiful ballroom of the great Town Hall is one of the finest spring floors, whereon practically all West of England dancing competitions are decided.

With the addition of facilities for angling, archery, badminton, boating, bowls, cricket, croquet, football (Rugby, Association and motor-cycle), hockey, hunting (with at least half a dozen packs), polo, squash rackets, and water polo, it is obvious that recreation is not starved at Cheltenham. Variety concert parties perform in the Montpellier Gardens and in the Winter Gardens (excellent Boxing Contests are also staged periodically in the latter building); there are frequent Celebrity Concerts in the Town Hall; the theatre provides drama, farce, opera and variety, as well as films; there are several excellent cinemas, including a sumptuous property belonging to the Gaumont British Company and ranking with the best in the provinces; and music is provided morning, noon and night—outdoors in one or other of the many beautiful parks and gardens, or indoors in the luxurious Town Hall, or in the Winter Garden.

The Town Hall

The Town Hall, a minute's walk from the Neptune Fountain in the Promenade, is one of the finest buildings of its kind in existence. Built of freestone in the Renaissance style, this handsome and exceedingly well-appointed social rendezvous contains the Central Spa and Lounge (where the several varieties of Cheltenham Waters are dispensed), a grand Conference Chamber, an elegant Pillar Room, a splendid Supper Room, several smaller apartments and offices, and up-to-date cloakrooms; these excellent Conference facilities are supplemented by the classic Pittville Pump Room, which stands amid broad lawns and beautiful gardens in Pittville Park.

The Promenade at Cheltenham enjoys more than national fame. *The Times* cautiously suggested that it was "perhaps the most beautiful thoroughfare in the country," while in April, 1934, *The Observer* commented that "the town gives an impression of great spacious streets, the Promenade, indeed, is one of the half-dozen beautiful avenues in the country." Eighteenth-century lawn-and-garden-centred squares, garden-fronted crescents, handsome terraces, and great square mansions built for lords and ladies in the days of George III, comprise the major portion of residential Cheltenham, the principal shops being concentrated along one side of the Promenade, at Montpellier, and on either side of the mile-long High Street.

As an educational centre Cheltenham Spa is celebrated throughout the Empire. Over seven hundred boys, British, Colonial and foreign, attend Cheltenham College, while with nine hundred pupils Cheltenham Ladies' College is the largest school of its kind in existence. The Grammar School has also attained public school status, and other celebrated local educational foundations include the well-known Dean Close School and several important Training Colleges for both sexes.

A high standard of excellence distinguishes everything Cheltonian and delights everyone who visits it; it is, therefore, a matter for congratulation that the springs out of which this lovely town may be said to have gushed found the surface in a locality so ideal for permanent residence, for holiday-making, and for touring and sightseeing, afoot or awheel. Immediately about it rises the loftiest portion of the glorious Cotswold Country, a vast rolling tableland criss-crossed by mossy stone walls, dotted by plantations of pine and long coverts of beech and hazel, and sprinkled with lovely grey hamlets each grouped about a little old Norman or fine upstanding Perpendicular Church. But that is less than half the story, for the jagged blue range of the Malvern Hills beckons across the orchards and cornfields of the broad Vale of Severn, and, beyond grand old Gloucester (nine miles from Cheltenham Spa) is the Forest of Dean, skirted by the world-renowned Wye Valley—"O, sylvan Wye," the river on which long ago Wordsworth bestowed the honorific O!

In The Neighbourhood

Also clustered close about Cheltenham Spa are Tewkesbury, where Shakespeare's Avon joins the Severn, and whole streets of "magpie" houses converge on the noble Norman Abbey church; lovely old Painswick; Stanton and Stanway (two of England's loveliest villages), Bibury and Bourton-on-the-Water; Broadway; Bredon Hill; Sudeley Castle; Hailes Abbey; the Saxon churches of Deerhurst and Coln Rogers; the remarkable Roman remains at Chedworth and Cirencester; the wonderful windows at Fairford; and the Seven Springs, the highest source of the River Thames.

People who have roamed the world have found in it nothing more charmingly satisfying than Cheltenham Spa, and, what is more, many of them emphasise their appreciation by either settling in the town or re-visiting it as often as opportunity permits.

At the annual meeting of the West Riding Joint Council for Local Authorities' Administrative, Technical and Clerical Services held at the Town Hall, Leeds, recently, Mr. Wm. W. Armitage (chairman, Yorkshire District Committee of N.A.L.G.O.) was elected chairman for the year 1935, Alderman Richard Annakin, J.P. (Harrogate), vice-chairman, Mr. J. H. Broomhead, (borough treasurer, Brighouse), honorary treasurer, and Mr. William Donnan (clerk to the West Riding Superannuation Joint Committee), secretary.

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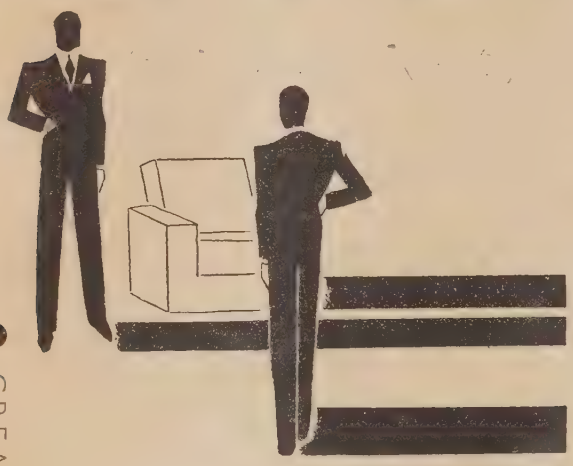

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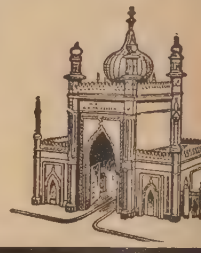

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NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

THE principal guests at the annual dinner at Aberdare included Mr. George Hall, M.P.; Mr. John Lewis, J.P., Chairman of the Council; and Mr. D. Lewellyn Griffiths, Town Clerk of Aldershot, and a member of the National Executive Council. In responding to the toast "N.A.L.G.O." Mr. Griffiths urged the need for superannuation schemes.

Speaking at the annual dinner at West Bromwich, the Mayor, Councillor J. H. Wills, who is a trade union organiser, paid a tribute to the staff. He said the Council realised they were endeavouring to give their best, and on the other hand the Council intended as far as possible to pay the best rates. Those rates were obtained and maintained as a result of the efforts of N.A.L.G.O., and he hoped every employee of the Corporation on the salaried staff was a member of the Association. If they were not, they should be.

Responding to the toast of "The Staffordshire County Council" at the eleventh annual dinner of the Staffordshire Branch, Alderman J. O. Whitehouse expressed the opinion that the high standard of efficiency of the County Council was largely due to the excellent feeling which existed between the County Council and the officials. County Councillor W. T. Richardson said he was glad that the relations between the County Council and the Association had always been of the most pleasant character. In reference to the educational work of the Association, he was convinced it definitely assisted the County Council because it made for better efficiency. Responding to the toast "The County Officers' Association" the President, Mr. R. S. Murt, M.Inst.C.E., County Surveyor, said it was entirely through the efforts of N.A.L.G.O. that they had superannuation and other improvements in service conditions. In responding to the toast "Our Guests," Dr. Wotherspoon, President of N.A.L.G.O., emphasised the increased prestige and growing importance of the Association. He hoped all would co-operate in celebrating the Centenary of Local Government.

Bigger Areas?

Sir Henry Jackson, M.P., was chief guest at the annual dinner of the Lincoln City Branch. Mr. G. H. Banwell, Town Clerk, presided over a record attendance. Responding to the toast of "The Local Government of this Country," Sir Henry Jackson said he thought they were moving towards a time when greater areas would be necessary for local government. These new areas would require greater administrative services, and he could conceive in the future very few services of such importance and such attraction as local government. They would require brains as brilliant as are at present operating enormous industrial concerns.

The annual dinner of the Derby Branch was presided over by Mr. C. H. Aslin, F.R.I.B.A., supported by the Mayor of Derby (Councillor B. S. Thorne); Dr. A. Wotherspoon (President of N.A.L.G.O.); Mr. C. Ashton, Town Clerk, and Mr. J. E. P. Buxton, President of the Derby County Officers' Branch. In proposing "N.A.L.G.O." the Deputy Mayor (Alderman H. Slaney) said he was struck by the fact that they were trying to bring about a compulsory scheme of superannuation, and he hoped that success would attend their efforts. In responding, Dr. Wotherspoon referred to the increasing membership, and urged that there ought to be 100 per cent. membership. Proposing the toast "The Mayor and Corporation" Mr. J. E. N. Davis referred to the excellent relationship which existed and hoped that soon a committee consisting of members of the Council and the Association would be established so that the officers had a direct and constitutional means of approach to the authority.

The first annual dinner of the Hereford City Branch was held at the Green Dragon Hotel. Mr. W. McNeil Shimmin (Borough Surveyor, and President of the Branch) presided and was supported by the Mayor of Hereford (Dr. J. V. Shaw); the President of N.A.L.G.O. (Dr. A. Wotherspoon); Mr. C. Savidge (President of the County Branch); and Mr. T. B. Feltham (Town Clerk). In an address Dr. Wotherspoon referred to the large number of senior officers who were members of the Association, and said he had very little sympathy with the senior officer who was not willing to assist his juniors through the Association, whose principal aim was to give service to all grades of local government officers. The Association's aim was to raise the status of all junior entrants to the service.

A Word to the "Nons"

The annual dinner and dance of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Branch was a most enjoyable function. Dr. Adam White, Medical Officer of Health (President of the Branch) presided, supported by the Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. J. Bentley); and the President of N.A.L.G.O. (Dr. A. Wotherspoon); Mr. J. B. Vernon (Chairman, Newcastle Rural District Council); Mr. W. T. Hatton (Chairman, Cheadle Rural District Council); Alderman A. Moran; Mr. J. Griffith (Town Clerk). Alderman Moran, in proposing the toast of "The N.A.L.G.O. and the Benevolent and Orphan Fund" said he could imagine no sound ground for anyone inside the Local Government Service remaining outside the organisation.

At the annual dinner and dance of the Coventry Branch, a presentation was made to the President of the Branch, Mr. Ernest Long, of a silver tray, and to Mrs. Long, a grandfather clock, on behalf of the Branch by Mr. A. J. Tew, the Vice-President. In making the presentation, Mr. Tew warmly thanked Mr. and Mrs. Long for the magnificent help they had given to the Association while at Coventry, and conveyed the good wishes of all for their success and happiness at Luton, where Mr. Long has been appointed Borough Treasurer.

Mr. V. J. Moore, M.C., Director of Education, presided over the annual dinner of the Walsall Branch, supported by the Mayor (Councillor Miss Cresswell); Alderman E. H. Ingram, Chairman of the Finance Committee; Alderman J. A. Leckie, M.P.; Dr. A. Wotherspoon, President of N.A.L.G.O.; and Mr. G. A. Stone. Alderman Ingram congratulated the Association on its progress and its serious-minded approach to service problems. Dr. Wotherspoon said that all interests concerned appeared to be equally anxious to end the long-drawn out controversy about compulsory superannuation. In a reference to recent criticisms the President said he hoped the day would never come when N.A.L.G.O. would be directly or indirectly affiliated to any political party. The result could only be deplorable for Local Government. Alderman Leckie, M.P., said he always admitted the excellent way in which N.A.L.G.O. had carried out negotiations locally.

The Rugby Branch held their annual dinner at the Royal George Hotel. Mr. D. E. Biart (Town Clerk and President of the Branch) presided, and the principal guests were: Dr. A. Wotherspoon, M.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health for Stoke-on-Trent, President of the National Association; Mayor and Mayoress of Rugby (Alderman and Mrs. J. T. Fleet); the Chairman of the Rugby Rural District Council (Mr. E. I. Appleby) and Mrs. Appleby; the Vice-Chairman of the Rugby Rural District Council (Mr. Dennis Clarke) and Mrs. Dennis Clarke.

The toast of the "National Association" was proposed by the Chairman who referred to the growth of the Association. In reply, Dr. Wotherspoon expressed his delight at being present in Rugby for the first time, and he drew attention to the policy which has resulted in the setting up of statutory bodies to deal with services which have come to be regarded as national, such as the Marketing of Milk, Electricity Grid Scheme, Regional Water Authorities, etc., and prophesied that these developments foreshadowed the day when local authorities would be charged with the carrying out only of business which could properly be regarded as local government.

The third annual dance of the Settle Branch took place in the Conservative Club, Settle. There was a company of 100 persons, including Mr. W. K. Mattinson, chairman of the Rural District Council. The Organising Committee were: Mr. T. E. Person (President and Chairman); Mr. J. W. Parker (Hon. Treasurer); Mr. R. Ralph (Hon. Secretary); the Misses M. M. Day and P. M. Islip; Messrs. S. C. Davidson, W. Ward, C. R. Handby, C. Parker, N. Firth, A. Boothman, T. W. Phillipson.

One of the most successful functions of the year was the eighth annual dinner and dance of the Clacton and District Branch at the Towers Hotel. Seventy-two members and friends attended, and the President (Mr. G. T. Lewis) was in the chair. The speakers included Councillor J. E. Ball (chairman, Clacton Council); Councillor C. W. Tagg of Frinton (ex-Town Clerk of Camberwell); Mr. H. Slater (Education Secretary, N.A.L.G.O.) During the evening Mrs. G. T. Lewis presented prizes to the winners of the various competitions.

At the annual dinner of the Stockport Branch, with Mr. G. H. Oldroyd (President) in the chair, the Mayor of Stockport (Alderman J. Coupe) congratulated the company on the continuing increase of membership. He said that in reading their journal he had been struck by the manifold activities of the Association. Mr. F. Knowles (Town Clerk of Stockport) welcomed the guests at the dinner on behalf of the branch, especially Mr. Coster, Vice-President of N.A.L.G.O.

A New Branch

The inaugural social event of the newly formed West Norfolk branch, in the form of a dance, was held at the Guildhall, King's Lynn. The visitors included Lord Fermoy, M.P., the Town Clerk of Lynn (Mr. F. G. Reeves) and members of the council. A whist drive was organised simultaneously by the President (Mr. Harry Hopkins) and Mr. Max Illingworth.

The dinner, held by the Brighton Branch at the Royal Pavilion again provided an enjoyable evening for members and friends. Attendance was the largest on record, 225 sitting down to dinner, and a further 160 attending the dance. The President (Mr. H. D. Roberts, M.B.E.) with Mrs. Roberts, held a reception prior to the dinner. The Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor S. G. Gibson, J.P., and Mrs. Gibson) were among guests of the Branch. The toast of the Mayor and Corporation of Brighton, was proposed by the President, and Alderman C. Kingston proposed "The Brighton Branch of N.A.L.G.O.," the Chairman of the Executive Committee (Mr. J. H. Tullett) responding. "The Visitors" proposed by Mr. A. B. Cathcart, M.Inst.C.E., Waterworks Engineer was responded to by Alderman H. Milner Black, J.P. The toast of the President, proposed by Alderman H. W. Aldrich, J.P., was enthusiastically received.

The thriving branch of the Isle of Thanet held their annual dinner and dance at the St. George's Hotel, Margate, when Mr. P. T. Grove (President of the Branch and Town Clerk of Margate) was chairman. He was supported by the Mayor and Mayoress of Margate (Alderman and Mrs. F. L. Pettman; the Deputy Mayor of Ramsgate (Councillor H. Stead); the Chairman of the Broadstairs Council (Councillor B. J. Pearson) and Mrs. Pearson; Dr. A. M. Watts and Mrs. Watts; Mr. A. H. Edwards (Clerk to the Herne Bay Urban District Council) and Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Morgan. The toast of the association was submitted by the Mayor of Margate, and Mr. H.

(*Continued on page 117*)

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BRIDGE FORUM

By Neville Hobson

CONTRACT BIDDING

WHETHER one likes Ely Culbertson or not, there can be no doubt that he is still a "big noise" in the world of Contract Bridge.

As Chairman of the American Co-operating Committee (working in conjunction with the Portland Club and the Whist Club of New York) he has been actively concerned recently in the proposed revision of the laws and scoring, but it is as a dictator of the principles of play that I propose to write of him this month.

Approach-Forcing System

He was responsible some years ago for introducing what has been known as the Approach-Forcing System, though this has been substantially displaced in England by the Two Clubs and One Club conventions. At the same time, his views on the correct method of bidding are always of interest, and he still commands a tremendous following in the United States.

I will now deal with certain modifications of his former decrees which appeared in the *Bridge Magazine* for last month, and I would strongly recommend this excellent journal to those who have advanced sufficiently beyond the *pons asinorum* to have become sound *pons* players. (I hope I have translated *pons* correctly as otherwise the joke will be very obscure !)

Honour Tricks

Hitherto it has been permissible to count K, J, x as one full honour trick, but this is to be replaced by K, J, 10. As the result of this change, A, J, 10 is now counted as one honour trick plus, and not 1½, and K, Q, 10 is one honour trick only.

For some years Q, x and J, x of different suits have been valued as half an honour trick, but now it is decreed that Q, x and Q, x are necessary (two guarded Jacks ranking as a plus value only).

Biddable Suits

After enlarging upon the advantages of an initial Suit bid rather than that of One No Trump, Culbertson refers to what have hitherto been known as Shaded Biddable Suits.

This term is to go, and it is somewhat startling to hear that Q, J, x, x is sufficient on which to base an opening bid of one. Indeed, he permits that any 4-card suit headed by the Jack and one higher honour, and 5-card suits, if headed by the Jack or better, are biddable and to be preferred to a No Trump.

This is mildly revolutionary, but it is only fair to point out that he advocates that 3-honour tricks should be contained in the hand in order to justify an opening bid on such a weak combination as above.

Slam Bidding

All this may appear very technical, but unfortunately the lure of slam bidding has made it essential to have safe and definite standards if the plunge of 6 tricks is to be taken with any degree of confidence in the later stages of bidding.

No Contract player can ignore the opinion of Culbertson as regards such matters as the valuation of honour tricks or the strength of biddable suits, and it must be assumed that these modifications are the outcome of experience in actual play. However, we shall see !

MOVEMENT OF MEMBERS

Mr. F. P. Clayton, Settle, to Engineer's Assistant, Prestwich.

Mr. S. K. Crook, Middlesbrough, to Deputy Borough Treasurer, Watford.

Mr. C. Edwards, Sheffield, to an appointment in the Public Library, Chelsea.

Mr. H. G. H. Holmes, Nottingham, to Quantity Surveyor, Norfolk C.C.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

(*Continued from page 115*)

P. Morgan (Chairman of the Isle of Thanet Branch) responded and said that the Isle of Thanet Branch had 200 members, representing 98 per cent. in the district. The health of the President was proposed by Dr. A. M. Watts.

The Great Unpaid

The seventeenth annual dinner of the Erith Branch was also the first celebration of the Centenary of Local Government in the borough. The President was Mr. Wilfrid A. Dockrill, and supporting him were Councillor W. J. Ramsden, J.P. (Chairman, Erith Council); Mr. Frank Clarke, J.P., M.P., and Mrs. Clarke; Alderman Sir George H. Hume, J.P., M.P., L.C.C., and Lady Hume; Mr. C. A. W. Roberts, M.B.E.; Captain and Mrs. Gurney G. Beagley; Dr. and Mrs. John H. Patterson; Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Wilson; and Mr. W. L. Thomas, LL.B. (Hon. Secretary, Erith N.A.L.G.O.). In proposing the toast of "The Local Government Service," Councillor W. J. Ramsden referred to centenary celebrations proposed in Erith by tours, films, fire demonstrations, special days, etc. Mr. C. A. W. Roberts, referring to the council, said as officials they were naturally proud of their part in local government but they ought to be equally proud of the unpaid officials—those representatives of the people who acted as a check on the ultra-enthusiastic official or as a spur to those not so enthusiastic. The toast of "Erith" was proposed by Sir George Hume, who spoke of the growing importance of the Branch, and the town. Mr. Frank Clarke replied, and Lady Hume responded for the ladies. The toast of the President was proposed by Mr. Herbert Beadle.

A very enjoyable concert and dance in aid of the B. and O. Fund was held at the King's Head Hotel, Newport (Mon.). Dr. I. Ruxton presided, and the Vice-President, Mr. A. Nicholls Moore, Borough Electrical Engineer, outlined the steps being taken to celebrate the centenary of Local Government.

Mr. Eric W. Scorer, Clerk to the Lindsey County Council, presided over the annual dinner of the Lindsey Branch. There was a large attendance, which included Alderman Mrs. A. Croft Baker; Alderman L. H. Goundry; Mr. G. A. Stone, N.E.C.; Mr. A. G. Bradshaw, County Surveyor; Dr. W. S. H. Campbell, County Medical Officer; and Dr. S. Laverty.

Mr. G. H. Parkin has been congratulated by the Hucknall Urban District Council on his election as Chairman of the East Midland District Committee. The Chairman of the Council declared that the election was an honour not only for Mr. Parkin but for the whole Council.

The Divisional Secretary attended a general meeting of the Port Talbot Branch on February 22, which was well supported. Dealing with the general activities of the Association and the success which has been achieved in the past few difficult years, he warmly congratulated the members on the recent adoption of the Superannuation Act.

A general meeting of the Tipton officials was addressed by the Divisional Secretary. Mr. H. N. Woodward, Surveyor, presided. It was agreed that the Branch should be re-formed and take a more active share in the Association's activities, and it is satisfactory to know that steps have been taken to ensure this.

About 150 people attended the annual dinner of the Huddersfield Branch. The President of the Branch (Mr. H. Neaverson) presided, and amongst the guests were the Mayor (Alderman A. Hirst); Alderman W. Dawson; Councillor A. Gardiner; the Chief Constable (Mr. H. C. Allen); and Dr. A. Wotherspoon, President of the Association.

At a dinner held by the Newark Branch, Mr. A. B. Day (N.E.C.) replied to the toast of "The Association." He gave instances of how N.A.L.G.O. had come to members' assistance. During the entertainment which followed a presention was made to Mr. S. J. Kench, who was Branch Secretary for nearly nine years.

The annual dinner and dance of the Southport Branch was held at the Victoria Hotel, Promenade, Southport. A record number of 170 was present. Mr. A. B. Dawson (Borough Treasurer and President of the Branch) presided, supported by Mr. J. W. Wilkinson (Deputy Town Clerk and Vice-President). The Mayor and Mayoress of Southport (Councillor A. A. Ashton, J.P., and Mrs. Ashton); the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Dr. E. W. Lewis, J.P.); and the Divisional Secretary (Mr. Haden Corser), were guests. The toast "The Mayor and Corporation of Southport" was proposed by the President, and the Mayor responded. The toast of "N.A.L.G.O." was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, and responded to by Mr. Haden Corser. Entertainment was given by Mr. Ralph Collis, of Wallasey.

For the B. & O. Fund

The Prudhoe Hall Colony Branch held their annual whist drive and dance, in aid of the B. and O. Fund. The Medical Superintendent (Dr. G. McCoull) provided the band, and the Matron (Miss Reay) with the assistance of the Branch Committee arranged refreshments, etc. The prizes were presented by Mrs. McCoull. After expenses were met, ten guineas were forwarded to the B. and O. Fund.

The Master and Officers of the Bucklow Institution, Knutsford, organised a whist drive and dance in aid of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, which resulted in a donation of £10 to the Fund.

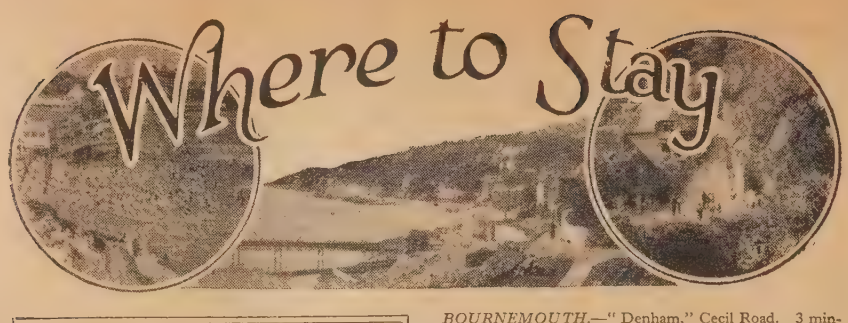
An enjoyable evening was spent at the Royal Oak Hotel, Malden, at the first annual dinner held by the Maldens and Coombe Branch. Several members of the Council were present and after dinner members and visitors enjoyed whist and dancing. Mr. A. R. Goldthorp presided. The toast of the visitors was proposed by Mr. James Wm. Johnson, M.B.E. (Clerk of the Council), and was responded to by Mr. E. A. Weeks, J.P. (Chairman of the Council) and Mr. H. Slater. Mr. L. G. Palmer acted as Toast Master and Mr. A. E. G. Castle was M.C. for dancing.

The Gloucestershire County Officers' Branch held a very enjoyable dance at the Connaught Rooms, Gloucester. The prizes were presented by Mrs. G. T. Bailey, the wife of the Chairman of the Branch. This is the first dance that has been arranged for some ten years past, and it is hoped to make this function an annual one. In January a very successful concert was arranged in aid of the B. and O. Fund.

The second annual dinner of the Durham County Branch was held at the Princess Ballroom, Durham, on Thursday, February 7. Mr. Harold Jevons (chairman), presided, and he was supported by Dr. A. Wotherspoon (National President), Mr. T. B. Tilley, M.A. (Director of Education for the county), Dr. James McIntyre (County Medical Officer of Health), Mr. J. K. Hope (Deputy Clerk of the Peace), Mr. J. W. Vince (hon. secretary) and others. There were over 300 present. Dr. Wotherspoon proposed the toast of "The Durham County Branch," and congratulated the members upon their progress. Mr. T. B. Tilley, Director of Education, in reply said that the membership of the branch had increased by 100 every year for seven years. Dr. J. McIntyre, County Medical Officer, proposed the toast of "The Chairman," and Mr. Jevons responded. The proceedings closed with a toast to Mr. J. W. Vince, the hon. secretary, and Mr. T. Darling, proposed by Mr. J. Hallimond.

Members of the Tyldesley Branch held their annual dinner and concert at Tyldesley Town Hall on January 31. Mr. F. E. Jones presided,

(*Continued on page 119, Col. 3*)



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NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

(*Continued from page 117*)

and among those present were Councillor W. Nicholson, J.P., chairman of the council, Councillor H. Atkinson, chairman of the Finance Committee, and Mr. J. R. Cockfield, the newly-appointed Clerk to the Council. Proposing the toast of "Nalgo," Councillor Nicholson said he was a trade union official and he felt that the "Nalgo" played a great part in raising the standard of life of its members. Responding to the toast, Mr. J. R. Cockfield said they had to encourage and foster a feeling of sympathy and understanding one with another. Dr. T. E. Flitcroft, Medical Officer of Health, proposed the toast "Our Guests," to which Councillor H. Atkinson replied. Entertainment was provided during the evening.

New Brances Effort

The newly constituted Runcorn Rural Branch held a whist drive in aid of the B. and O. Fund, when the chairman of the council, Mr. H. Walton, J.P., and Mrs. Walton were present. The prizes were presented to the winners by Mrs. G. F. Ashton, wife of the Clerk to the Council.

Appointments for 1935 made at the annual meeting of the Bath Branch of the Association, held at the old Red House recently, included : President, Mr. J. Basil Odgen; vice-presidents, Messrs. J. Hatton, A. W. Hoyle, C. J. Butlin, H. H. Morgan, F. P. Sissons, S. Leighton Heard, W. A. Craven, R. H. Whittington, C. Busfield, W. T. Cumpsty, and Dr. Blackett; hon. secretary, Mr. C. Ball; assistant secretary, Mr. Horace Jones; hon. treasurer, Mr. S. Carless.

The Mayor (Councillor Herbert Chilvers) presented cups to members of the staff in connection with the various competitions run by the branch : Golf approach : Winner, J. B. Ogden ; runner-up, R. H. Whittington. Tennis: Winner, J. Beer; runner-up, L. G. Hales. Putting : Winner, J. B. Ogden; runner-up, E. Eyles.

The West Norfolk branch of the Association, inaugurated only last December, has made very rapid progress, nearly 100 members being reported at the first general meeting held at St. James's House, King's Lynn. Mr. Harry Hopkins (Assistant County Surveyor of Norfolk) who was chairman at the meeting was unanimously elected the first president, with Mr. E. H. Bradford (Borough Treasurer of King's Lynn) as vice-president.

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HOME GARDENING

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens," "The Wright Encyclopædia of Gardening," etc.

ONE can very well suppose that some amateur gardeners were disconcerted by the bitter spell of weather which came along just before the middle of March. It dashed their expectations of an unbroken procession of mild and sunny gardening days, perhaps also crippling a few forward Roses amongst other things. Well, we do get these trials and those of us who live long enough learn to accept them with resignation. We think, too, of the fruit growers, who must have been getting worried over the early swelling of the buds, bringing with it the danger of blossom expanding prematurely and subsequent injury from April frosts. Now we are in April we will hope that the worst cold spells are behind us and that we can go ahead with Rose pruning and other jobs with reasonable equanimity.

Light Pruning Roses

Some of my readers may see the monthly journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, and those who read a recent article by an experienced professional gardener giving the results of light pruning with what are nominally dwarf Roses, might wonder whether hard pruning really has the merits often claimed for it. For this person was able to claim highly successful results from very light pruning indeed. Such cases are not new to me. I remember looking over a fence in a Kentish garden a few years ago and seeing a number of magnificent bushes that had obviously had the lightest of pruning in what seemed to be the garden of a cottager. Now cottage Roses are often pruned lightly because the cottager is too busy with his vegetables and his daily duties on farm or elsewhere to give them attention, but they are rarely such plants as the average amateur Rose-grower would consider creditable to him, much less splendid bushes full of health, vigour and bloom, as were those under my eyes. The explanation was speedily forthcoming; this particular cottager was an employee in a neighbouring Rose nursery and as such was in a special position. We had a long and interesting talk about pruning, about which he knew a great deal. He was able to get first-class results from light pruning with various modern Hybrid Tea varieties, as his bushes proved.

In view of the R.H.S. writer's success and of the corresponding results in the case of the cottager just referred to, I am certainly not prepared to dissuade any fairly experienced Rose-grower, amateur or professional, from experimenting with light pruning if he has a fancy to do so; but I still consider that most amateurs are likely to get the best results from hard pruning, by which I mean cutting dwarfs and also the heads of standards to about the length of the middle finger, varying a little according as the variety is naturally long-stemmed or short-stemmed; because in the great majority of cases it gives satisfactory results with the minimum of trouble.

Light pruning has drawbacks. For one thing it means much larger plants than many people have room for. Larger plants mean more room. More room means fewer varieties. Are you content with a small number of sorts and feel that you would like to give them light pruning? Well, go ahead by all means. On the other hand, do you want to grow a good selection of sorts for which you can only find room by planting them as close as two feet apart or even less? Then prune hard and good fortune go with you, as I feel sure it will if other things are attended to properly.

Pruning gives a reminder of fruit as well as of Roses, and although I have very little doubt that I have far more growers of Roses than of fruit trees among my readers, I feel constrained to say a few words on a much-vexed subject. Most of the fruit trees which I see in the gardens of amateurs show that a bad start was made with pruning, and believe me a bad start needs a great deal of correcting. I feel sure that if every grower would satisfy himself with a tree of six or seven branches for the first two years he would save himself a great deal of trouble. With many branches in a young tree it is difficult to space them evenly and without even spacing there cannot be a really creditable tree. Crossing and intercrossing will follow inevitably, and the older the tree gets the more troublesome will pruning be. But even with few branches there may be trouble, because of the spacing not being right. There may be several branches crowded on one side and big gaps on the other.

Good nurserymen do not generally send out such trees, but if supplied should be rejected promptly. Nor should an old tree be purchased by an amateur, even if well trained. "Old" being a relative term I may say that four years should be the maximum and three be considered better. The younger the tree, as a rule, the fewer the fruit buds and with only growth buds to control the matter is simple, because, by shortening the half-dozen shoots to about double the length of the fingers when the uppermost buds have begun to break, a well-shaped tree follows naturally. Think always about shape and let fruit look after itself for a year or two. Another little point of guidance is that shoots springing from the main stem to form branches should never be nearer than four inches apart; if double that length all the better.

Work to be Done

Pruners of Roses and fruit trees should realise what admirable provision is made for their wants in the form of pruning tools nowadays. Illustrated lists pour in on me, showing knives, secateurs, saws, shears and "long-arms" amongst other implements. Unless there is much cutting of thick shoots to deal with I should select a "Rolcut" from the list of secateurs and there is no pruning tool more generally useful. Do users of it know that the Rolcut people also make a very handy little pocket saw? They do, and I wish pruners, particularly amateur pruners, who are given to straining their tools, would provide themselves with one and so remove the temptation of using the secateurs on shoots too thick for them to negotiate properly. This "pocket" saw is, of course, a folder. A still smaller folding saw is obtainable in association with a pruning knife, and this comes in particularly handy if there is bark-ringing to be done, a practice I unfortunately have no space for at present.

Remarks on pruning have taken up most of my space this month, leaving the less for flowers, but if my readers will refer back to the issues for January, February and March they will find that this has been allowed for and a glance through those issues will bring them up to date. What is there to do? Or perhaps I might ask: What is there not to do? Here set of jobs to put us all on the alert: So hardy annual outdoors. Hardening off hardy. Planting rock and herbaceous pl Pricking-off such seedlings as Begonias, tuberous and fibrous, also Nemesias, A rhinums, annual Asters, Ten-week St Petunias, Verbenas; or sowing all the fore in gentle heat if there are no seedlings a able. Planting Carnations. Potting y Dahlias and hardening-off advanced p carefully. Completing the planting of Gla Planting evergreen shrubs. Dressing Nepeta Mussinii with the shears and div strong clumps. Completing the plantin Pansies and Violas. Planting out Pinks o various types. Getting in stakes for S Peas and Dahlias. Planting Sweet Peas o pots, boxes and "raisers," and making a sowing outdoors if there is need. Stopping tying early Sweet Peas as needed. G garden walks an early dressing for w Sowing lawn grass seeds.

Window and room plants ought to be hauled. Probably most people buy requirements in the way of Aspidistras, Pa Ferns, Begonias, etc., from florists, and really remarkable how long such plants thrive without repotting and fresh soil; there does come a time when they call fo provision, and in such cases I advise the be ner to procure a special mixture of soil fro florist—even two mixtures to fit different k When he has gained experience he ca course, prepare his own composts. He wil fail to observe that the florist had prac very firm potting and take care to imitate excellent practice. The window boxes sh be cleansed thoroughly before use. Do forget those charming trailing window p Campanulas fragilis and isophylla; many pe prefer the white form of the latter to the sp itself. Fuchsias and old Zonals should no moving and receive due attention.

Lastly, and for many people almost the important of all, complete the planting of den Chrysanthemums and give their sisters timely repotting, ventilation and ge care.

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YORKSHIRE DISTRICT COMMITTEE

At a well-attended meeting of the Y shire District Committee on February Halifax, the Mayor of Halifax (Coun Mrs. M. Lightowler, J.P.) extended a welcome to the delegates. Mr. W. W. Armi who presided, thanked the Mayor.

Application had been received from 16 s branches within the area for financial assist towards sending representatives to the An Conference, and grants aggregating £30 were approved.

Discussion took place on a communica which had been received from the Brigh Branch with regard to the scale of subsc tions to the Association, particularly in case of members in receipt of salaries betw £120 and £260 per annum. It was ag to refer the matter to the National Execu Council for their consideration.

After Mr. Laughton, Rotherham (Chair of the Sports Committee) had made a refer to the progress of the Sports Competit now proceeding, Mr. Moir, Leeds, prese to the Yorkshire District Committee a hands trophy in the form of a Challenge Cup for Table Tennis Competition.

The Divisional Secretary pointed out the number of branches within the are the Yorkshire District Committee is now and the number of members 9,695. Four branches had been formed during the year, namely, Pudsey, Ripon, River C Catchment Board, and Thorne. The increase in membership amounted to With the exception of the year 1930, when merger with the N.P.L.O.A. took place, is the highest increase ever recorded in District. The branch showing the lar increase in membership was Sheffield an addition of 86.

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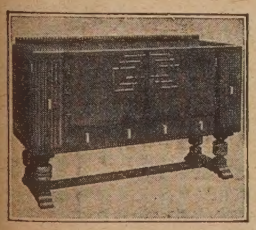

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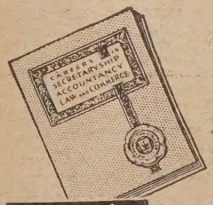

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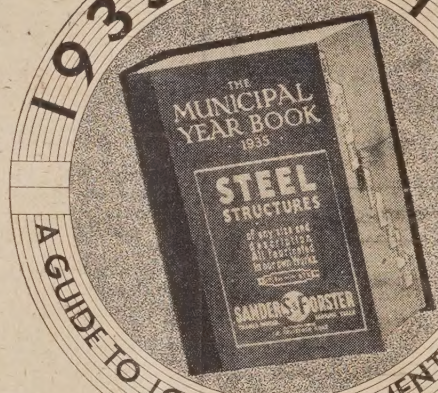

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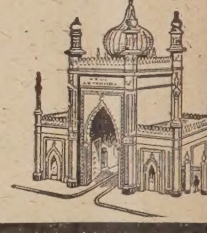

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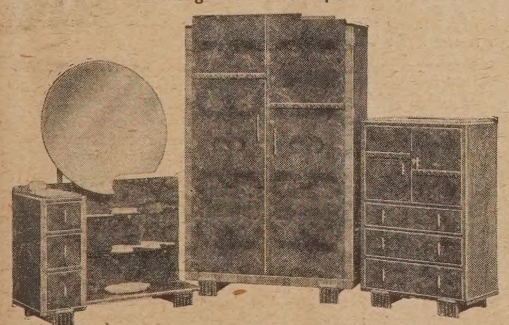

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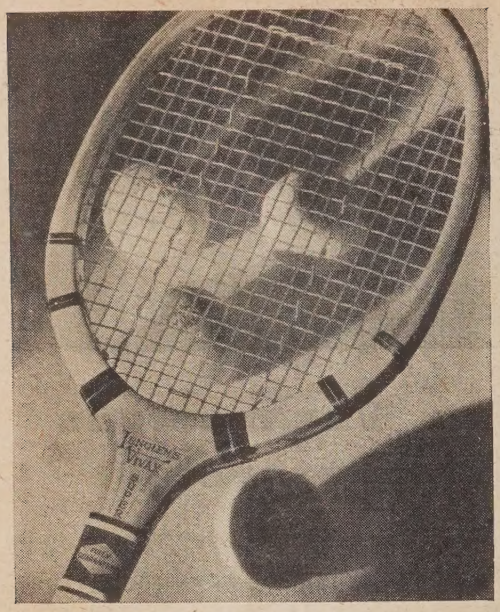

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